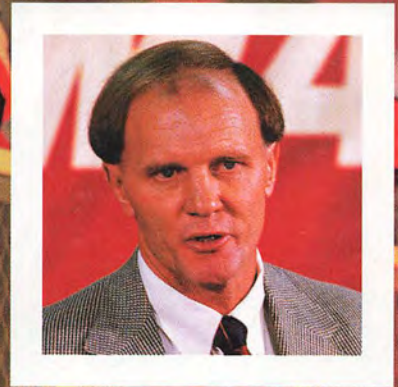


'BAMA

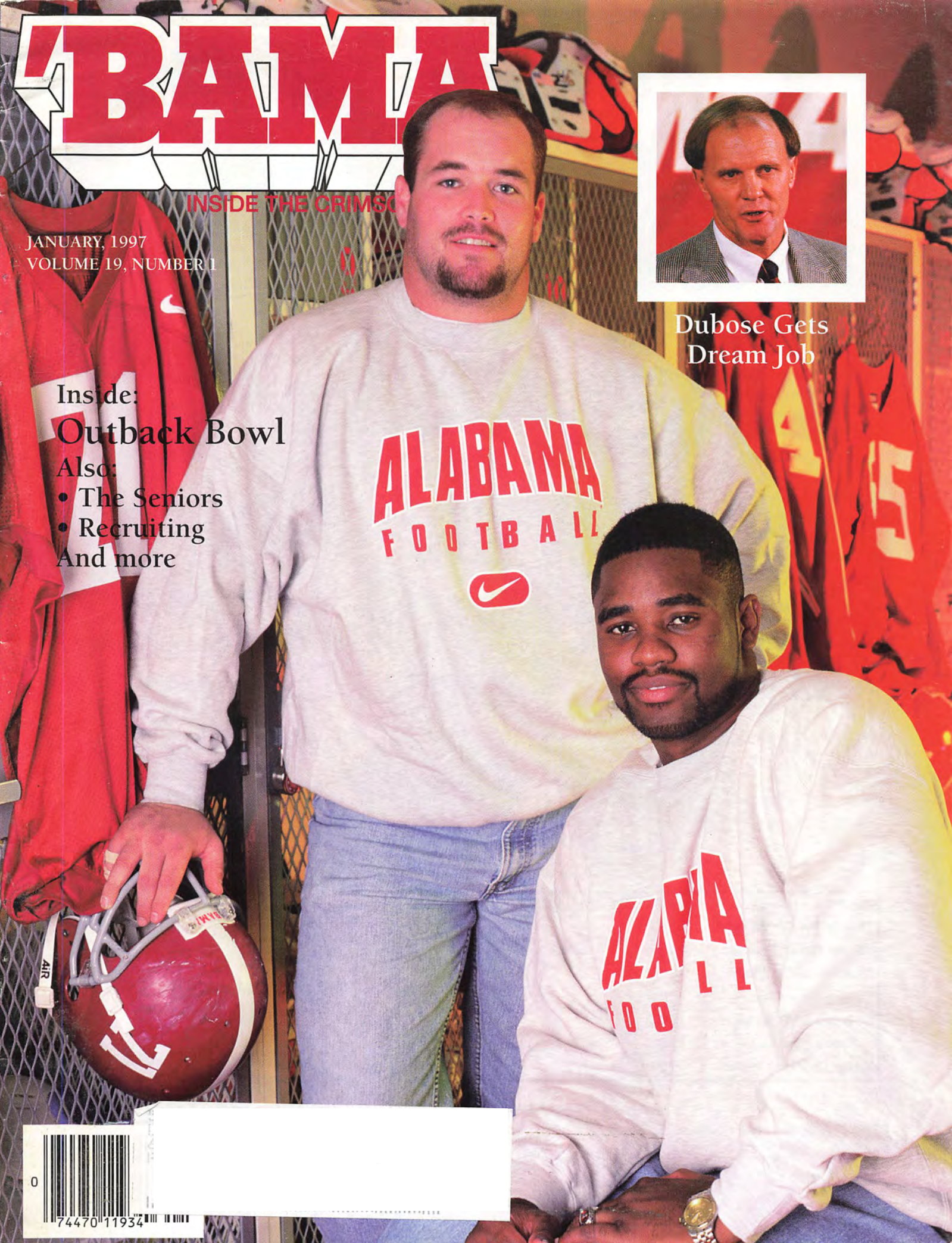
INSIDE THE CRIMSON

JANUARY, 1997
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1

Inside:
Outback Bowl
Also:
• The Seniors
• Recruiting
And more



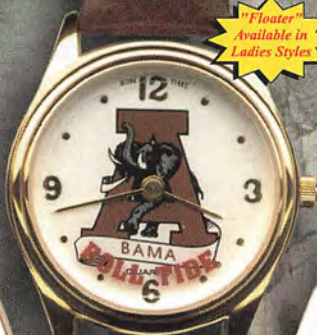
Dubose Gets
Dream Job



ALABAMA®

**"Floater"
Watch**

"Floater"
Available in
Ladies Styles



**Musical
Watch**



Plays "Yea Alabama"
at the Press of a Button

**Sun-Glo
Watch**



Dial Illuminates at
the Press of a Button

**Squad
Watch**



Stainless Steel Case with
Leather / Nylon Strap

**Wall
Clock**



**Children's
Watch**



For the Young
Alabama Enthusiast
Available Oct. 15, '96

**MVP
Watch**



MVP
Available in
Ladies Styles

Classic Timepiece with
2-Toned Bezel & Strap

WATCH *(Specify Mens or Ladies)	QTY	COST	SUBTOTAL	\$5.00 S & H PER WATCH	AL RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX	TOTAL
*Bama "Floater" Watch		\$49 ⁹⁵				
Bama Musical Watch		\$59 ⁹⁵				
Bama Sun-Glo Watch		\$59 ⁹⁵				
Bama Squad Watch		\$59 ⁹⁵				
*Bama MVP Watch		\$89 ⁹⁵				
Bama Wall Clock		\$29 ⁹⁵				
Bama Childrens Watch		\$22 ⁹⁵				

SEND TO:
NAME _____
STREET ADDRESS (Not P.O. Box) _____
CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
☐ VISA ☐ MC # _____ EXP. _____



MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

'BAMA MAGAZINE
P.O. BOX 866104

TUSCALOOSA, AL 35486 - 0054

PHONE ORDER: 1-800-713-2261



BAM 004

(ALLOW 4 - 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY)



P.O. Box 866104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054
(205) 345-5074
FAX (205) 345-1260
E-Mail: BamaMag@aol.com
For subscriptions: 1-800-713-2261

Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair
Editor: Kirk McNair
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy
Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle
Director of Promotions: Julia McNair
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes
Artist: Dan Proctor

Contributing Writers:
John Barnes, Stephen Craig, Lewis
Each, Donna Fromme, Louise
Ford, Jeff Janes, Vincent Moore,
Donald F. Staffo, Andrew Varble II

Contributing Photographers:
Butch Dill, Steven Fikes,
Spectrum-Southeast,
University of Alabama

Computer Consultant:
Stephen Bushery, ComSouth

Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE
(USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is pub-
lished monthly for ten months from August
to May by College Sports Publications, Inc.,
2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.
Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address
to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON
TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL
35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa,
Alabama, and at additional mailing office.
Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign
subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change
of address: Six weeks advance notice, and
old address as well as new required. Address
all correspondence to: Post Office Box
866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054.
Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts
or photographs unless accompanied by re-
turn postage. Copyright © 1996 College
Sports Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part without
written permission is prohibited.

'BAMA is an independent publication, not
associated with The University of Alabama.

CHARTER MEMBER

CSPA

College Sports
Publishers Association

P.O. Box 13515
(352) 372-1215

Gainesville, FL 32604
FAX (352) 372-2283

Get the latest *Crimson Tide*
sports updates!



Hotline

1-900-860-1979

Charge is
\$2 for first minute,
\$1 each additional minute

Callers under 18 obtain parents' permission
24-Hour Service

Calls may be made from TouchTone
or rotary dial telephone

FOOTBALL UPDATES

Daily (Selection 2) after practices and games
Weekly (Selection 3) by 7 p.m. CT Sundays
through January 1

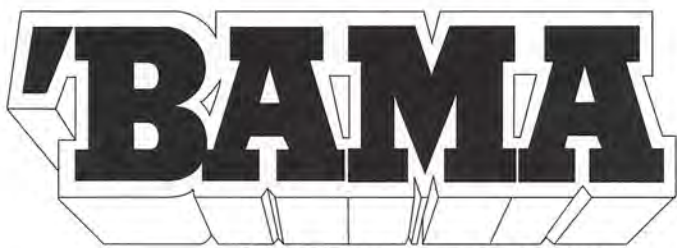
UPDATES ON ALL BAMA SPORTS

Updated weekly by 7 p.m. CT Sundays (except Dec. 29)
and after men's basketball games (Selection 4)

RECRUITING INFORMATION

Updates by 7 p.m. CT each day, January 6-February 4 (Selection 5),
Hourly on Signing Day, February 5

A service of 'BAMA Magazine
2116 8th Street Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (205) 345-5074



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

CONTENTS

On the cover: Senior captains John Causey (left) and Fernando Davis will lead Alabama when the Crimson Tide meets Michigan in the Outback Bowl on January 1. See Page 6.

Kent Gidley Photo



Page 14

Mike Dubose:

An Alabama Man To Coach Alabama

3

Mike Dubose, a former Alabama player and longtime assistant coach, was elevated from defensive coordinator to head coach, replacing Gene Stallings, effective following the completion of this season, which ends January 1 in the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida. by Kirk McNair

The Outback Bowl:

Tide Has Chance For Positive Finish

6

Alabama will play its final game under Gene Stallings when the Crimson Tide meets Michigan in the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida, January 1. The game offers a number of positives. by Kirk McNair

The Seniors:

Another Good Tide Class

12

Gene Stallings last senior class of football Crimson Tiders has been a good one. Alabama will have 29 players at the Outback Bowl who will be making their final Bama appearances. by Kirk McNair

Reggie Grimes:

He's Been Movin' On Up

14

Redshirt freshman Reggie Grimes signed with Alabama as a running back with a likelihood of being a fullback. But Grimes has grown into a defensive lineman who started several games at defensive end in his first season. by Donald F. Staffo

Shamari Buchanan:

Trying Hard To Make His Name Known

16

It wouldn't be preposterous to suggest that Shamari Buchanan was a so-called "sleeper" when he came out of Douglass High School in Atlanta. However, the redshirt freshman has moved into the regular playing rotation at wide receiver. by Jeff Janes

Golf Outlook:

Tide Finished Fall On A Roll

20

The first half of the college golf season in the fall was very good to both Coach Dick Spybey's Alabama men's golf team and Coach Betty Palmer's Crimson Tide women's squad. Both teams should be confident when spring play begins. by Donna Fromme

Prep Prospects:

Plenty Of Skill In The South

23

This is considered a critical year in Alabama football recruiting. Here is a look at some of the top skill position players in the South. by Kirk McNair

Early Signees:

Tide Baseball Hits It Big

28

Although Alabama's men's basketball team was unable to add to its list of three signees in the early November signing period, other sports have continued to announce signees. by Kirk McNair

The Departments

Bowl Rosters	9
Bowl Facts	10
Scorecard	30
Future Alabama Football Schedules	31
1996-97 Winter Sports Schedules	32



Page 16



Page 20



Page 23

An Alabama Man To Coach Alabama

by Kirk McNair

Dubose, 44, scored high on Bockrath criteria to be Tide's head football coach

It is unusual that this year two of the most storied football programs in the nation had their head coaches resign and their places taken by the school's defensive coordinators. At Notre Dame, Lou Holtz stepped down and was replaced by Bob Davie. At Alabama, Gene Stallings will end his Crimson Tide coaching career in the Outback Bowl against Michigan and Mike Dubose will assume the reins.

If Alabama has ever elevated an assistant with no college head coaching experience to head coach, it came either in the last decade of the 19th century or in the first 15 or so years of this century. Notre Dame has done it a couple of times with mixed success, but the Irish take heart in knowing that in 1918 an assistant with no head coaching experience and only four years experience as an assistant was given the job of head coach at Notre Dame. His name was Knute Rockne, and he worked out satisfactorily.

There are dozens of examples of assistants moving up. Some—Joe Paterno at Penn State, Tom Osborne at Nebraska—have been very successful. Others have not. But the same could be said of men with plenty of head coaching experience, some unable to make a go of it, some doing very well at every stop.

An oddity about Dubose is that he is the first Bama head football coach in at least 75 years (records of Alabama's early coaches are sketchy) to be from the state of Alabama. He is a native of Opp. He is the first Alabama alumnus to be named the Tide's coach since Ray Perkins in 1983.

On November 15, Athletics Director Bob Bockrath laid out the criteria he would use in selecting Stallings' successor. They were:

- Connection to a championship program
- Knows the Xs and Os, an on-the-field coach
- Intense work ethic
- Good recruiter
- Ability to put together a top staff
- Relates well to players
- Understands academic mission of The University
- Wants to be Alabama's head coach
- Someone whom Bockrath felt comfortable with from personal, philosophical and professional standpoints
- Appreciation of the expectations of the Alabama football program

So how does Dubose measure up? Both



Mike Dubose earned his reputation as an outstanding defensive coach, and, specifically, of defensive linemen. Beginning immediately following this year's Outback Bowl game against Michigan he'll start his new duties as Alabama head football coach.

Barry Fikes Photo

Bockrath and Dubose said they felt a comfort level with one another in Dubose's extensive interview. The only other question about Dubose would be his ability to put together a top staff, simply because he hasn't done it before. But he knows good coaches, because he has worked with them. It is expected most of Bama's current staff will be retained. As Dubose said, "The program is not broken. There are some things we'll do a little bit different, but there's an outstanding staff here, and the majority of the staff will stay. There will be a few changes, but they won't take place anytime quickly."

In every other area, Dubose has earned an A+.

When Dubose was introduced as Alabama's 23rd head football coach on December 9, he made a presentation that was obviously from the heart. Being Alabama's coach is not a job for him; it's a passion.

Dubose said he is proof dreams do come true. "Don't be afraid to dream, and dream

big," he said. "Then work hard and be patient and your dream will come true. It has for me and my family today." Dubose emphasized that until the Outback Bowl game is played, "I'm the defensive line coach and defensive coordinator and I'm going to do everything I can to help Coach Stallings win his 70th game (at Alabama)."

Immediately following the press conference announcing his appointment, Dubose hit the recruiting trail.

Dubose said that he would expect to "open up" the offense a bit. "We're still going to run the football, but we want to be able to pass when we want to pass, not when the defense dictates that we pass. We won't finalize everything until we have our staff together. We want to be able to put points on the board. We may have a little more motion, a few more shifts, things that will help us spread the field against a defense."

He added that he hoped Woody McCorvey, who has been quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator, would remain with the team. Dubose said that if McCorvey, who may have



FOOTBALL FAX

Get up-to-date information on football and recruiting with the 'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX. Reports come three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) during football season, after practices in spring training, and Monday through Friday on recruiting beginning January 6 through football signing day. You get accurate reports waiting for you when you reach your Fax machine each morning.

This exclusive for 'BAMA MAGAZINE subscribers is available for \$150 and your Football Fax subscription carries an unconditional money back guarantee on the unused portion.

Your 'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX subscription will be for one full year.

To subscribe, complete the form and mail to:

'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX
P.O. Box 866104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054

OR (credit card orders only)
CALL 1-800-713-2261
OR FAX (205) 345-1260

☐ Yes, I want Football Fax.
I enclose \$150.

☐ Check or money order

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Exp. _____

Sig. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

FAX _____

been the only other candidate interviewed for the job, had been named head coach. "I would have stayed. He's one of the few who could have gotten the job and me stay."

Dubose called his appointment "a tremendous challenge and a tremendous opportunity. This is a program with a rich tradition and high expectations. I have been around that a long time and know what is expected." He added, "I look forward to the opportunity of leading this program to the level we all want it to be. We have one goal and that is to win. But there are three things that I want to make sure we are all aware of and understand. Winning is important, but I think how you win is just as important, if not more so.

"We're going to win, but we want to win with class. We are going to win, but I want to make sure that we win within the rules and regulations of the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA. We're going to win, but we're going to make sure that we don't do anything that takes away from the integrity of the academic side of this university. We can win on the football field and we can win in the classroom."

Dubose said, "I expected to be Alabama's head football coach one day, but I didn't expect it to come this early. This is the only coaching job I want. I hope I'm here for a long, long time. There's no step up from here." Dubose will be 44 on January 5.

Bill Oliver left the Tide staff at the end of last season to take a similar position at Auburn. That opened the door for Dubose to be named Alabama's defensive coordinator and moved Dubose into the spot vacated by Oliver, that of the people's overwhelming choice to be the next Alabama head football coach. Dubose said he was "overwhelmed" by the support shown him by Alabama followers. "It was not all for me," he said. "It was for an idea." That idea was to have an Alabama man coaching Alabama football.

In answer to a question, he said, "I wouldn't be standing here if I didn't think I could get the job done, because I have a tremendous love and appreciation for this university. Remember, when I made the statement that I wanted to be considered, I also said I wanted Alabama to get the best coach possible. So I feel like I'm qualified. But will I be learning on the job, will I learn from experience? Sure. There's no question that I'll be a better head coach ten years from now than I am three weeks from now."

Dubose has virtually no head coaching experience, save two years at Prattville High School in 1978-79. He was a graduate assistant at Alabama in 1975 following his playing career, then a high school assistant coach at Fairhope. He then joined, ironically, Oliver as an assistant coach at Tennessee-Chattanooga. He coached at Southern Miss in 1982, then returned to the Alabama ranks under Perkins in 1983. When Perkins departed for the Tampa Bay Bucs in 1987, Dubose went with him as defensive line coach. (Alabama's practices in

Tampa for the Outback Bowl will likely be at the Bucs' training facility, where Dubose toiled through 1989). When Stallings took over at Alabama in 1990 he lured Dubose back from the pros to coach an Alabama defensive line that has turned out numerous all-stars. He briefly considered returning to pro football a few years ago, but changed his mind at the last moment.

Dubose said, "I think the fact that I've moved around and had a chance to experience several different philosophies, several different offenses, defenses and kicking games, played a part in (my selection). And I think the fact that I am from Alabama and played at The University of Alabama played a part."

In his Alabama coaching career he has coached five first round NFL picks (Emanuel King, Jon Hand, Cornelius Bennett, John Copeland and Eric Curry). Bennett and Curry were top 10 finalists in Heisman Trophy balloting. He was selected "SEC Working Coach of the Year" in 1991 and 1994. Alabama defenses have consistently ranked among the nation's best when Dubose has been a member of the staff.

Dubose, who has both bachelor's and master's degrees from Alabama, was a fierce player on teams from 1972-74 that went 32-4, winning three Southeastern Conference titles and one national championship. Although somewhat undersized as a defensive end, he was twice named "SEC Defensive Player of the Week" and his name still dots the Alabama record book. He had career statistics of 129 primary tackles, 71 assists, 26 tackles behind the line for 155 yards, eight caused fumbles, six fumble recoveries and three pass break-ups. Against Tennessee in 1972 he had 20 tackles, two behind the line for 17 yards, and caused one fumble.

He is tied for fifth all-time in tackles behind the line in a season at Alabama (11 in 1973); tied for second for most fumbles caused in a season (four in 1972) and in a career (eight), and tied for second for most fumbles recovered in a career (six).

Dubose wore number 54 at Alabama, which is meaningful to older Alabama fans. One of the most famous Crimson Tide players was Lee Roy Jordan, an All-America linebacker in the early 1960s. Jordan was from Excel, about 40 miles from Dubose's hometown of Opp, and it was Dubose's goal to wear number 54 at Alabama. However, in those days there were two jersey numbers that had to be earned, number 22 (worn by running back Johnny Musso 1969-71) and 54. Prior to Dubose's junior year, Coach Paul Bryant awarded him number 54. The number could also be taken away, though. "I was stunned when Coach Bryant gave me that number," Dubose remembered, "and I worked extremely hard to keep it." He did.

Upon his appointment, Dubose had thanks for a number of people, including his wife, the former Polly Martin of Opp, and his children, Juli Ann and Michael,

Jr.; his former junior high school coach, Robert Waller; his former high school coach, Bobby Smith; his freshman coach at Alabama, Clem Gryska; his position coach as a player at Alabama, Dude Hennessey; former Tide trainer Jim Goostree; and, of course, his Alabama head coach as a player, Paul Bryant, and his current boss, Gene Stallings. Gryska, Hennessey, Goostree and Stallings were in attendance. Paul Bryant, Jr., also attended the press conference.

"I've been lucky," Dubose said. "I never had a bad teacher growing up in Opp or a bad professor at Alabama and I never had a bad coach."

He said, "I can't stand here and not mention Coach Bryant. Not a day goes by that I don't think about him. He taught more than football. And as long as his former players live, a

part of Coach Bryant will live. He'll always have a special place."

Dubose also complimented his current boss, Stallings, on several occasions, noting "What he's done is remarkable. He has done great things as a football coach, but also as a person for this university, this state, and this nation. I've learned a lot from him. And I've already asked if I can call him when I need advice. I know I'll be calling him a lot."

A number of Dubose's former Alabama teammates were also on hand. Ray Maxwell of Gadsden, who was one of 45 freshmen with Dubose in 1970 and who was redshirted with him, was one of those present. He had a photograph with him, a picture of nine fifth-year seniors on the '74 team. "We had one, Randy Hall, who finished in four years. This is all that remained of the rest," Maxwell said.

Dubose was presented by Bockrath. There was also a telephone announcement of the selection at the press conference from University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen, who was in New York.

Dubose said he was interviewed by Bockrath December 1, met with Dr. Sorensen December 2 and was offered the job December 3. He admitted that he might have been distracted in preparing Alabama for the SEC Championship Game against Florida, a game Alabama lost, 45-30, two days before Dubose was introduced as the Tide's new head coach.

Now, Dubose said, "I made a promise to Coach Stallings to do a better job in the Outback Bowl than I did Saturday. I'm going to do everything I can to make sure he gets that average of 10 wins a year for seven years." Stallings' Alabama record is 69-16-1.

Staff Probably Will Have Very Few Changes

In his first press conference upon being named Alabama's next head coach, the question of the Alabama coaching staff under Mike Dubose was one was the first asked.

"I have thought about it," Dubose said. "I've read where I've put it together already, but that is not the case right now. There will be some talks in the next two to three weeks and we're not going to move in a hurry. It's been speculated that there will be a lot of change."

"This program is not broken. There are some things that we'll do a little bit different, but there is an outstanding staff here, and the majority of this staff will stay. There will be a few changes, but they won't take place anytime quickly. We'll take our time and make sure that we research and think through the process and get advice from people that are seated here in this room today [presumably Head Coach Gene Stallings and Athletics Director Bob Bockrath, not the assembled media members], and then make some decisions."

While there may be some announcements of staff changes prior to the Outback Bowl, there won't be in actual changes. This is still Gene Stallings' team and he is not going to dismiss any coaches to make room for Dubose's additions. Once upon a time there was no limit on the number of coaches a team could have, but now there are limitations.

It wouldn't be Alabama football if there weren't plenty of rumors, but some seemed to have more plausibility than others insofar as the coaching staff was concerned.

As for the facts, the elevation of Dubose into Stallings' position opens up one spot on the coaching staff.

However, serious rumor has it that there will be two more openings, that Jim Fuller, who has coached guards and centers, will retire and that Randy Ross, who is recruiting coordinator (which counts against the NCAA staff limit of eight assistant coaches) will move into an administrative post.

Three names have surfaced as most likely additions.

Neil Callaway, who played at Alabama right after Dubose had completed his eligibility, is the assistant head coach and offensive coordinator, as well as offensive line coach, at Houston (which is playing in the Liberty Bowl). He has been projected as the new Alabama line coach. Callaway would coach all five offensive linemen, a departure from the practice of having two offensive line coaches.

Ellis Johnson, who coached Bama linebackers in 1990-91 before returning to Clemson as defensive coordinator, is expected to return to Bama as linebackers coach and defensive coordinator. Clemson is playing in the Peach Bowl. There had been speculation that Dubose would name Curley Hallman, who coaches the Alabama secondary, as defensive coordinator. However, Hallman, who has twice been a head coach, does not need another line on his resume. It is not unreasonable to believe that Hallman will return to the head coaching ranks within a year or two. (Oddly, Hallman's name surfaced in reports as a

possible candidate to be defensive coordinator at Texas A&M, his alma mater.)

The big question is offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Although Dubose said that he hopes Woody McCorvey will remain on the staff, it is believed McCorvey, who served as assistant head coach under Stallings, will relinquish those posts, probably returning to coach wide receivers and/or tight ends.

The name most mentioned to fill the post of quarterback coach and offensive coordinator is David Cutcliffe, who currently has the same position plus the post of assistant head coach at Tennessee (which is playing in the Citrus Bowl). Cutcliffe is an Alabama graduate (although he did not play college football). While press reports said that Cutcliffe's decision would be based on salary, that is not believed to be the primary factor. He makes \$105,000 per year at Tennessee and Alabama would offer him a reasonable increase of \$10,000-\$20,000 per year (not as much as \$200,000 as was reported in the *Knoxville News-Sentinel*). Cutcliffe is expected to make his decision based upon what he believes will be his best ticket to a head coaching job. It is likely that both Dubose and Tennessee Head Coach Phil Fulmer have urged Cutcliffe to make a speedy decision.

No "back-up" names have surfaced in the event Cutcliffe does not accept the offer to return to Alabama. Callaway could serve as offensive coordinator, but a quarterbacks coach would still have to be found.

It is believed that Dubose will put heavy emphasis on having a staff of accomplished recruiters on his staff. Before the era of severe scholarship limits, college football was considered a coaching game. In recent years it has been considered a recruiting game. Even Coach Paul Bryant once said that given the choice between having good players and having good coaches, he would take good players.

Ivy Williams is expected to remain as running backs coach and there has been speculation that Dabo Swinney will coach either tight ends or split ends and also take on the responsibility of recruiting coordinator. Danny Pearman has been projected as moving from coaching offensive tackles to working with defensive tackles with Jeff Rouzie moving from coaching linebackers to coach defensive ends.

There has been no mention from the rumor mills of an assistant coach to work with special teams.

Other names have surfaced, including former Tide graduate assistant John Bobo (who was an assistant coach with Dubose at Tampa Bay and who was head coach at Arkansas State until resigning at the end of this year); former Alabama player and coach Sylvester Croom, currently coaching running backs for the San Diego Chargers; former Tide quarterback Mike Shula, currently coaching quarterbacks for the Tampa Bay Bucs; and Auburn Offensive Line Coach Rick Trickett, who worked with Dubose at Southern Miss.

—Kirk McNair

Tide Has Chance For Positive Finish

by Kirk McNair

Match against Michigan provides some luster in Stallings' final game

The Outback Bowl wasn't the goal of Alabama when this season started, but as things worked out there are far more positives than there are negatives. Alabama will meet Michigan in the Outback Bowl in Tampa on New Year's Day. Kickoff will be at 11 a.m. EST (10 a.m. CST) with television coverage by the national cable sports network, ESPN.

Gene Stallings' final game as Alabama's head football coach will pit Bama against a program rich in tradition. As much as possible in a minor bowl, the game will have national interest because of the presence of the Crimson Tide and the Wolverines. Because of the early kickoff time, with no competition from another bowl until late in the game, the Outback Bowl should have good television ratings.

There are other advantages. Tampa is a warm-weather city, which makes the trip more of a vacation than a chore for players and fans. The Tide should reap some additional press coverage because Mike Dubose, who will take over as Alabama's head coach immediately after the game, worked in Tampa as an assistant coach for the Tampa Bay Bucs for three years.

Additionally, there are a number of high school football prospects in the area, and some of them are likely to be practice visitors as the Tide prepares for the game.

Bama players and coaches were scheduled to arrive in Tampa December 26 and begin preparation for the game. The Tide had five days of practice in Tuscaloosa before the players were given a short holiday break.

College football's move to a true national championship game has been successful prior to this season in pitting the number one and number two teams in a bowl game. However, that procedure has made other bowl games insignificant. This year there are two bowl games, the Sugar and Rose, with national championship implications.

The Outback Bowl has one of the better match-ups from a number of standpoints beyond the obvious interest in it being Stallings' last game as the Tide's head coach.

In this year's rankings, Alabama and Michigan are close, the Tide ranked 15th and Michigan 17th in the coaches' poll conducted by CNN/USA Today, while the



Dennis Riddle rushed for over 1,000 yards in his junior season. Alabama has its greatest success when the Tide is able to run the football. Bama will be going against a tough defense when it meets Michigan in the Outback Bowl in Tampa, Florida, on January 1.

Barry Fikes Photo

Wolverines are 15th and Bama 16th in the Associated Press rankings.

Bama is 9-3 this season, while Michigan is 8-3. Both had disappointing and unexpected losses by 17-16 scores, the Tide falling to Mississippi State, Michigan blowing a 16-0 lead to Northwestern. However, both also had dramatic wins over their primary rivals, Bama coming from behind to defeat Auburn, 24-23, Michigan going into Columbus, Ohio, and upsetting Rose Bowl-bound Ohio State, 13-9.

In all-time college football history, Michigan and Alabama are among the elite. Michigan ranks first in all-time victories with 764, while Alabama (even with eight victories and a tie turned into a loss by NCAA penalties) is third with 712. In all-time winning percentage, Michigan is second (74.3 per cent), Alabama third (72.8 per

cent). Michigan and Alabama are two of only six teams with 700 or more victories. The others: Notre Dame, Texas, Nebraska and Penn State.

Ironically, Alabama and Michigan have played only one previous football game and it was in Tampa, in the now-defunct Hall of Fame Bowl on January 2, 1988. The Wolverines scored a touchdown with less than a minute to play to take a 28-24 win.

Although NCAA sanctions kept Alabama out of a bowl game last year, the Tide is still number one in bowl game participation (this will be number 48, which will put Bama 11 ahead of number two Southern Cal) and Alabama has more bowl victories than any other team, 27 (two more than Southern Cal). However, in the past 22 years, Michigan has been bowling every season, Alabama only 20 times. Bama's all-time bowl record is 27-17-3 while Michigan has been in 27 bowl games and hopes to even its bowl record in the Outback Bowl. The Wolverines are 13-14 in post-season play.

Alabama also has something on the line in the Outback Bowl. With one more victory the Tide will have its 25th year of 10 or more victories, adding to its NCAA record

This Is January

In hopes of getting this January pre-bowl issue of *Bama* into your hands before the game is played January 1, the magazine was mailed a week early.

The February issue will be mailed January 31.

for most 10-victory seasons. The Crimson Tide has won 10 or more games three times in Stallings' previous six seasons at Alabama, including a school record 13 wins in the 1992 national championship year. Since 1971 Alabama has recorded 10 or more victories 15 times. An Outback Bowl win would give Stallings 70 victories in his seven seasons, an exceptional average of 10 wins per season.

When the Stallings Era comes to an end, it will "close a chapter" not only on Gene Stallings' career, but on Alabama football history. And it has been very successful.

Going into the Outback Bowl, Stallings has coached Bama to a record of 69-16-1. He ranks third in all-time victories among Alabama coaches, trailing Hall of Fame members Paul Bryant (287) and Frank Thomas (146) after passing another Hall of Famer, Wallace Wade (61) this year. His all-time winning percentage is 81.8, second only to Bryant's 82.4 and just ahead of Thomas and Wade (both at 81.2). His average wins per season, currently at 9.86, is best in Bama history. Bryant is second at 9.28.

The highlight of his Crimson Tide career came in 1992 when Alabama celebrated its 100th year of football by going undefeated in regular season play, then winning the inaugural Southeastern Conference Championship Game, then capping that with an extraordinary 34-13 victory over previously number one-ranked Miami in the Sugar Bowl to become the unanimous national champion. Stallings was honored with the Bryant Award, given to the national coach of the year.

His teams won four SEC Western Division titles and have gone to five previous bowl games, posting a 4-1 record in post-season play.

Tide players have won numerous honors in the Stallings Era. Stallings has coached 12 first team and seven second team All-America players. In his seven years he has had 35 All-SEC first team and 23 second team players. And 64 Tiders have been selected to the Academic All-SEC Team. Thus far, 43 of his players have been selected for post-season all-star games and 20 have played in the National Football League.

Two players have won national awards, Antonio Langham the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's top defensive back, and Jay Barker the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award as the top senior quarterback.

The Outback Bowl would appear to shape up as a defensive battle. Both Alabama and Michigan have been more impressive at stopping the opponents than in running over foes.

Although the performance of Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel and his Florida teammates in the Gators' 45-30 win over Bama in the SEC Championship Game



Gene Stallings

knocked the Tide down in national rankings, Alabama is still prominent in those ratings. Bama is eighth in total defense, seventh in rushing defense, ninth in passing defense and seventh in scoring defense this year. Michigan is also rated in those categories, 18th in total defense, 17th in rushing de-

fense, 20th in passing defense and eighth in scoring defense.

Alabama had three All-America players this year, all defenders. They are junior linebacker Dwayne Rudd (who was also named SEC Defensive Player of the Year), junior tackle Michael Myers and senior strong safety Kevin Jackson. Additionally, All-SEC performers this year include senior linebacker Ralph Staten and junior cornerback Deshea Townsend. Sophomore cornerback Fernando Bryant and sophomore end Chris Hood joined center John Causey and running back Dennis Riddle as second team All-SEC performers.

As has been the case throughout the Stallings Era, the risk-reward concept applied from the boardroom to the golf course defines this Alabama football team, albeit somewhat inconsistently. On offense, Bama opts for low risk, and, consequently, rarely has a big loss and ordinarily settles for small gains. Defensively, the Crimson Tide is high risk, occasionally suffering the huge setback, but also making the occasional giant return.

In the loss to Tennessee, the Bama defense held the high-powered Vols and quarterback Peyton Manning to very little offense (10 first downs), but gave up two big plays that turned out to be the difference in Tennessee's 20-13 victory. In a surprise loss to Mississippi State, the Tide offense failed to deliver and Bama was beaten, 17-16. The loss to Florida was more a matter of good execution by the Gators than Alabama deficiency.

It's impossible to know what affect Stallings' lame duck status will have had on Alabama preparation for the Outback Bowl. However, in the past Stallings has been able

5 SECONDS OF ALABAMA FOOTBALL HISTORY CAN BE YOURS!



not
shown actual size

A must for all Alabama fans! This collectible coin is a duplicate of the *official, commemorative coin* tossed just prior to the 1997 Outback Bowl. Minted in solid copper using the same dies that made the original, this 2" diameter coin is sculpted in high relief - truly a work of art. Each coin comes individually packaged in a clear, airtight collector's case.

Suggested retail price is \$15.95, but you can purchase one today for only

\$11.95 INCLUDES SHIPPING CHARGES!

To order, call: **1-800-950-3553**
MAKES A GREAT GIFT! GO TIDE!

to focus his team's attention away from distractions.

While Bama is not a powerhouse this year, as is most often the case the Tide will line up quality football players at about every position. Although Alabama has suffered through a number of injuries this year (including losing all-star candidate defensive end Darrell Blackburn before the start of the season, middle linebacker and defensive captain Fernando Davis in the fourth game of the year, and fullback Ed Scissum and place-kicker Brian Cunningham in the eighth game of the year), the Tide should be relatively healthy for the Outback Bowl.

Michigan's defense is led by senior inside linebacker Jarret Irons, like Rudd a semifinalist for the Butkus Award. Irons, despite being slowed by injuries during the year, is one of three Wolverines who just missed turning in 100 tackles this year. Irons and fellow inside linebacker sophomore Sam Sword were in on 99 stops each, while sophomore strong safety Marcus Ray was in on 98.

Sophomore defensive end David Bowens has tied the Michigan record for sacks in a season with 11, while soph cornerback Charles Woodson has equaled the Wolverines' school record for passes broken up with 14. Woodson is considered one of the finest players in the nation. The Michigan front line is anchored by one of the country's top nose tackles, William Carr.

Michigan has a reputation as a very physical defensive team.

Under second year Head Coach Lloyd Carr the Michigan offense features a pair of fine runners in soph Clarence Williams and junior Chris Howard. However, as is often the case, the Wolverines are generally only as productive as their quarterback, sophomore Scott Dreisbach. Dreisbach showed the effects of



Dwayne Rudd, Alabama's junior outside linebacker, was named the Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He was the leading tackler on the SEC's top defensive team.

Barry Fikes Photo

youth in a couple of games this year (notably a loss to woeful Purdue) and he was also injured part of the season, but he was very good late in the year. When Dreisbach is out he's backed by Brian Griese, the son of former Purdue and NFL star Bob Griese, and Brian had a good performance in the upset of Ohio State.

Michigan has had only one productive wide receiver this year, Tai Street, but the Wolverines have a novel approach to the passing game: they throw to the tight end, Jerame Tuman. Occasionally Woodson will line up at flanker, and when he does it often means he's going to get the ball on a reverse.

An offense is only as good as its line, and

Michigan has an excellent one, led by All-America center Rod Payne. Payne suffered a broken thumb on his right hand this year and simply snapped the ball left-handed, even when Michigan went to the shotgun. The five men in the offensive front started all 11 games for the Wolverines this year.

Michigan has an excellent field goal kicker in Remy Hamilton, who has connected on 16 of 21, including 4 of 6 from over 40 yards with a long of 48, but the rest of the Michigan kicking game is only average. Griese is used as the short punter, which means the defense must be aware of the possibility of a fake.

A Statistical Comparison Of Top Individuals In The Outback Bowl

1996 Alabama Statistical Leaders

Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Dennis Riddle	242	1079	4.5	11
Shaun Alexander	77	589	7.6	6
Curtis Alexander	61	240	3.9	2
Montoya Madden	29	129	4.4	2

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Freddie Kitchens	302	152	2124	50.3	14	14

Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Michael Vaughn	39	702	18.0	6
Dennis Riddle	34	290	8.5	3
Calvin Hall	16	313	19.6	0
Marcell West	15	275	18.3	4

Defense	Solo	Asst.	Total	For Loss	PBU
Dwayne Rudd	40	34	74	7-16	1
Kevin Jackson	43	29	72	4-19	5
Michael Myers	49	17	66	13-43	3
Cedric Samuel	53	9	62	2-2	3

1996 Michigan Statistical Leaders

Rushing	Att.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Clarence Williams	190	834	4.1	2
Chris Howard	148	698	4.7	10
Charles Woodson	6	152	25.3	1

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TD	Int.
Scott Dreisbach	269	149	2025	55.4	12	9
Brian Griese	24	14	226	58.3	2	1

Receiving	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Tai Streets	42	718	17.1	2
Jerame Tuman	32	518	16.2	5
Russell Shaw	27	300	11.1	3
Clarence Williams	22	248	11.3	1

Defense	Solo	Asst.	Total	For Loss	PBU
Sam Sword	65	34	99	10-20	1
Jarrett Irons	73	26	99	8-41	7
Marcus Ray	63	35	98	2-2	6
William Carr	47	29	76	15-52	2

1997 Outback Bowl Rosters

Alabama Crimson Tide

No	Name, Pos.	Year	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
1	Marcell West, FI	Sr.	6-0	190	3L	Niceville, Fla.
2	Deshea Townsend, CB	Jr.	5-10	180	2L	Batesville, Miss.
3	Michael Feagin, CB	So.	5-9	179	1L	Greenville
4	Steve Stanley, WLB	So.	6-3	199	1L	Leighton
6	Lance Tucker, QB	Jr.	6-0	182	2L	Fayette
7	Kevin Jackson, SS	Sr.	6-2	206	2L	Dothan
8	Tim Bowens, FI	Fr.	6-1	195	HS	Killen
9	Freddie Kitchens, QB	Jr.	6-2	230	2L	Attalla
10	Thomas Hill, CB	Fr.	5-10	180	RS	Meridian, Miss.
11	Chad Goss, SE	Jr.	5-11	177	1L	Warner Robins, Ga.
12	John David Phillips, QB	So.	6-3	208	1L	Anniston
13	Cedric Samuel, S	Sr.	5-9	183	3L	Demopolis
15	William Watts, PK	Sr.	6-1	210	3L	Pleasant Grove
17	Warren Foust, QB	So.	6-3	207	1L	Midwest City, Okla.
18	Hayden Stockton, P	Sr.	6-0	195	1L	Double Springs
19	Brian Cunningham, PK	So.	5-11	178	Sq	Birmingham
20	Kelvin Sigler, S	So.	6-1	180	1L	Mobile
21	Montoya Madden, RB	So.	5-9	210	1L	Town Creek
22	Michael Vaughn, SE	So.	6-1	199	1L	Clarksdale, Miss.
23	Andre Short, SS	Jr.	5-11	205	2L	LaGrange, Ga.
24	Marlon Reyes, CB	Sr.	5-10	184	1L	Mexico City
25	Fernando Bryant, CB	So.	6-0	170	1L	Murfreesboro, Tenn.
27	Jeremy Pruitt, S	Sr.	6-0	186	1L	Rainsville
28	Travis Crim, SS	Jr.	5-9	177	Sq	Clanton
29	Dennis Riddle, RB	Jr.	6-0	195	2L	Tuscaloosa
31	Jon Brock, PK	Sr.	6-1	195	Tr	Huntington Bch, Calif.
32	Curtis Alexander, RB	Jr.	6-1	200	2L	Memphis
33	Ed Scissum, FB	Jr.	6-0	232	2L	Attalla
34	Chris Hood, DE	So.	6-3	273	1L	Town Creek
35	Owen Winston, CB	So.	6-0	185	1L	Montgomery
37	Shaun Alexander, RB	Fr.	6-1	205	RS	Florence, Ky.
38	Patrick Hape, TE	Sr.	6-4	257	3L	Killen
41	Ralph Staten, SLB	Sr.	6-3	208	3L	Semmes
42	Paul Pickett, MLB	Jr.	6-2	221	1L	LaGrange, Ga.
43	Steve Harris, DE	So.	6-0	246	1L	Town Creek
46	John Tanks, SLB	Sr.	6-4	229	3L	Bulder
47	Eddie Hunter, SLB	So.	6-2	205	1L	Mobile
48	Trevis Smith, FB	So.	6-1	222	1L	Montgomery
51	Laron White, OG	Sr.	6-2	272	3L	Courtland
53	Granison Wagstaff, MLB	So.	6-2	238	1L	Enterprise
54	Anthony Dowdell, DE	Sr.	6-1	251	2L	Columbus, Ga.
55	Fernando Davis, MLB	Sr.	6-3	255	3L	Aberdeen, Miss.
56	Chris Jordan, OT	Jr.	6-4	293	1L	Jackson
57	Lamont Floyd, WLB	Sr.	6-2	234	3L	Orange Park, Fla.
58	Matt Harrison, DT	So.	6-4	260	Sq	Dadeville
59	Chris Edwards, SLB	So.	6-2	236	1L	Bessemer
60	Chris Samuels, OT	Fr.	6-6	290	RS	Mobile
61	Chris Sign, OG	So.	6-2	262	Sq	Arlington, Texas
62	Michael Ray, C	Jr.	6-5	291	1L	Boaz
63	Sage Spree, OT	So.	6-4	285	1L	Boligee
65	Jackson Cook, Sn/C	Sr.	6-0	260	2L	Cullman
66	Brenon Meadows, OG	Jr.	6-2	280	Sq	Birmingham
68	Will Friend, OG	Jr.	6-2	271	2L	Philadelphia, Miss.
69	Michael Moore, OG	Fr.	6-6	290	RS	Fayette
70	Jason McDonald, OT	Fr.	6-6	296	RS	Theodore
71	John Causey, C	Sr.	6-2	273	3L	Hayneville
72	Pete DiMario, OT	Sr.	6-4	285	3L	Tuscaloosa
73	Josh Swords, OG	So.	6-3	285	Sq	Brentwood, Tenn.
75	Marquis Forge, DT	Fr.	6-0	252	RS	Autaugaville
77	Joel Holliday, DT	Jr.	6-3	312	2L	Six Mile, S.C.
78	Ozell Powell, DT	Sr.	6-5	295	3L	Greenville
79	Jeremy Pennington, OG	Sr.	6-2	272	3L	Vernon
81	Edgar Walker, DE	Jr.	6-4	250	1L	Dothan
83	Calvin Hall, SE	So.	6-2	195	1L	Gallatin, Tenn.
84	Shamari Buchanan, FI	Fr.	6-2	214	RS	Atlanta
85	Rhett Crutchfield, TE	So.	6-3	246	Sq	Birmingham
86	Rod Rutledge, TE	Jr.	6-4	260	2L	Birmingham
87	Dwayne Rudd, WLB	Jr.	6-2	245	2L	Batesville, Miss.
88	Chester Lewis, Sn/TE	Sr.	6-4	252	2L	Tuscaloosa
89	Tito Smith, SLB	So.	6-3	224	Sq	Birmingham
90	Jamie Carter, DT	Fr.	6-3	290	HS	Philadelphia, Miss.
91	Clint Waggoner, TE	Fr.	6-4	235	RS	Fairburn, Ga.
92	Tyrell Buckner, MLB	Sr.	6-0	252	3L	Denison, Texas
95	Kelvin Moore, DE	Sr.	6-3	258	3L	Daphne
96	Michael Myers, DT	Jr.	6-3	270	JC	Vicksburg, Miss.
97	Heath Panks, DT	Jr.	6-4	280	JC	Slidell, La.
98	Reggie Grimes, DE	Fr.	6-4	271	RS	Nashville, Tenn.
99	Eric Kerley, DT	Jr.	6-1	298	2L	Birmingham

Michigan Wolverines

No	Name, Pos.	Year	Hgt	Wgt	Hometown
1	Tyrone Butterfield, WR	So.	5-8	172	Miami, Fla.
2	Charles Woodson, CB	So.	6-1	197	Freemont, Ohio
3	Todd Brooks, WR	So.	6-0	193	Freeport, Ill.
4	Russell Shaw, WR	Jr.	6-0	178	Los Angeles
5	Mike Elston, DE	Jr.	6-4	250	St. Mary's, Ohio
6	David Bowens, DE	So.	6-3	236	Pontiac, Mich.
7	Chris Floyd, FB	Jr.	6-1	227	Detroit
8	Chris Howard, RB	Jr.	5-11	214	River Ridge, La.
9	DiAllo Johnson, FS	Fr.	6-3	185	Detroit
10	Tom Brady, QB	Fr.	6-5	215	San Mateo, Calif.
12	Scott Dreisbach, QB	So.	6-4	208	Mishawaka, Ind.
13	Jason Kapsner, QB	Fr.	6-6	220	Eden Prairie, Minn.
14	Brian Griese, QB	Jr.	6-3	207	Miami, Fla.
15	Aaron Wright, WR	Fr.	6-0	172	Highland Village, Texas
18	LeAundre Brown, CB	Fr.	5-10	177	Arlington, Texas
19	Remy Hamilton, PK	Sr.	6-0	189	Boca Raton, Fla.
20	Ian Gold, RB	Fr.	6-1	200	Belleville, Mich.
22	Kevin Bryant, WR	Fr.	6-0	175	Farmington Hills, Mich.
23	Woodrow Hankins, CB	Sr.	5-9	191	Owasso, Okla.
26	Eric Mayes, ILB	Jr.	5-11	209	Kalamazoo, Mich.
27	Steve King, SS	Sr.	6-1	192	Riveria Beach, Fla.
28	Daydrion Taylor, S	So.	6-0	192	Longview, Texas
29	Marcus Ray, SS	So.	6-0	205	Columbus, Ohio
30	Andre Weathers, CB	So.	6-0	183	Flint, Mich.
31	Rick Turner, WR	Jr.	6-2	176	Grand Rapids, Mich.
32	Bryan Williams, CB	Sr.	5-10	181	Detroit
33	Clarence Williams, RB	So.	5-9	196	Detroit
34	John Anes, FB	Fr.	6-2	224	Kentwood, Mich.
36	Aaron Shea, TE	Fr.	6-4	246	Ottawa, Ill.
37	Jarrett Irons, ILB	Sr.	6-2	234	The Woodlands, Texas
38	Brent Washington, CB	Fr.	6-0	184	Inkster, Mich.
39	J.R. Ford, RB	Fr.	5-8	190	Columbus, Ohio
40	Jason Foster, FB	Fr.	5-10	233	Medina, Ohio
41	Tom Hendricks, SS	Fr.	6-2	200	Houston
43	Clint Copenhaver, OLB	So.	6-4	237	Brighton, Mich.
44	Rob Swett, ILB	Jr.	6-3	232	Challont, Penn.
46	Grady Brooks, ILB	Fr.	6-2	256	Dallas
49	Jay Feely, PK	So.	5-10	190	Odessa, Fla.
50	David Crispin, ILB	Jr.	6-1	234	Dearborn Heights, Mich.
51	Damon Denson, OG	Sr.	6-4	298	Pittsburgh
52	Rod Payne, C	Sr.	6-4	289	Miami, Fla.
53	Ben Huff, DT	Jr.	6-4	273	Charlotte, N.C.
55	Dhani Jones, ILB	Fr.	6-2	207	Potomoc, Md.
56	James Hall, DE	Fr.	6-3	250	New Orleans
57	Chris Singletary, DE	So.	6-2	221	Detroit
58	Rob Renes, NT	Fr.	6-1	279	Holland, Mich.
59	Jeff Springer, ILB	Sr.	6-1	225	Detroit
60	Nate Miller, OG/C	So.	6-3	264	Imlay City, Mich.
61	Sean Parini, OLB	Jr.	6-2	223	Grand Rapids, Mich.
63	Eric Warner, OG	Fr.	6-5	231	Brighton, Mich.
64	Steve Frazier, C	Fr.	6-4	280	Kingwood, Texas
65	Andy Sechler, OLB	Fr.	6-1	197	Union City, Mich.
67	David Brandt, C	Fr.	6-4	276	Jenison, Mich.
68	Zach Adami, OG	Jr.	6-5	282	Maumelle, Ark.
71	Jeff Potts, OT	Fr.	6-7	276	Three Rivers, Mich.
72	John Partchenko, OG	Jr.	6-4	294	Etobicoke, Ont.
73	Paul Tannous, OT	Fr.	6-5	270	Houston
75	Thomas Guynes, OT	Sr.	6-5	294	Kankakee, Ill.
76	Steve Hutchison, DT	Fr.	6-5	293	Coral Springs, Fla.
77	Jon Jansen, OT	So.	6-7	290	Clawson, Mich.
78	Noah Parker, OG	So.	6-4	283	Milton, Fla.
79	Jeff Backus, OT	Fr.	6-6	273	Norcross, Ga.
80	Jerame Tuman, TE	So.	6-5	233	Liberal, Kansas
81	Glen Steele, DE	Jr.	6-5	281	Ligonier, Ind.
82	Chad Carpenter, TE	Fr.	6-4	243	Bloomington, Ind.
83	Jerry Johnson, WR	Fr.	6-4	180	Crowley, La.
85	Marcus Knight, WR	Fr.	6-1	167	Sylacauga, Ala.
86	Tai Streets, WR	So.	6-2	185	Matteson, Ill.
88	Mark Campbell, TE	So.	6-6	250	Clawson, Mich.
89	Mark Bolach, C/TE	Sr.	6-6	277	Muskegon, Mich.
90	Juaquin Feazell, DE	So.	6-4	268	Fort Valley, Ga.
91	Josh Williams, DT	Fr.	6-3	267	Houston
93	Sam Sword, ILB	So.	6-2	239	Saginaw, Mich.
94	Eric Wilson, DT	Fr.	6-4	266	Monroe, Mich.
95	Pat Kratus, DE	Fr.	6-3	260	Rocky River, Ohio
96	William Carr, NT	Sr.	6-0	287	Dallas
97	Chris Ziemann, DT	Fr.	6-7	262	Aurora, Ill.
99	Paul Peristeris, P	Sr.	6-2	204	Lincoln Park, Mich.

Tide Offense

SE- 22	Michael Vaughn
83	Calvin Hall
LT- 60	Chris Samuels
77	Joel Holliday
LG- 79	Jeremy Pennington
66	Brenon Meadows
C- 71	John Causey
62	Michael Ray
RG- 51	Laron White
69	Michael Moore
RT- 72	Pete DiMario
63	Sage Spree
TE- 38	Patrick Hape
86	Rod Rutledge
QB- 9	Freddie Kitchens
17	Warren Foust
HB- 29	Dennis Riddle
37	Shaun Alexander
FB- 48	Trevis Smith
21	Montoya Madden
FL- 1	Marcell West
84	Shamari Buchanan

SPECIALISTS: PUNTER-18 Hayden Stockton; KICKOFF-15 William Watts; PLACEMENT-31 Jon Brock, 19 Brian Cunningham; HOLDER-6 Lance Tucker; PUNT SNAPPER-65 Jackson Cook; PLACEKICK SNAPPER-88 Chester Lewis; KICKOFF RETURN-1 Marcell West, 22 Michael Vaughn; PUNT RETURN-11 Chad Goss

Alabama Facts

Offense: Pro-I
Average Offense Size:
Line: 6-3, 282
Backs/Receivers: 6-1, 194
Offensive Starters By Class: 5 seniors, 3 juniors, 2 sophs, 1 frosh
Defense: 4-3
Average Defense Size:
Line: 6-3, 274
Linebackers: 6-2, 225
Secondary: 5-11, 185
Defensive Starters By Class: 5 seniors, 4 juniors, 2 sophs

Tide Defense

LE- 34	Chris Hood
54	Anthony Dowdell
LT- 96	Michael Myers
90	Jamie Carter
RT- 78	Ozell Powell
99	Eric Kerley
RE- 95	Kelvin Moore
98	Reggie Grimes
SLB- 41	Ralph Staten
46	John Tanks
MLB- 42	Paul Pickett
92	Tyrell Buckner
WLB- 87	Dwayne Rudd
57	Lamont Floyd
LCB- 25	Fernando Bryant
13	Cedric Samuel
RCB- 2	Deshea Townsend
3	Michael Feagin
SS- 7	Kevin Jackson
23	Andre Short
S- 13	Cedric Samuel
20	Kelvin Stigler

Michigan Facts

Offense: Multiple
Average Offense Size:
Line: 6-5, 290
Backs/Receivers: 6-1, 194
Offensive Starters By Class: 3 seniors, 3 juniors, 5 sophs
Defense: 4-3
Average Defense Size:
Line: 6-3, 270
Linebackers: 6-3, 237
Secondary: 6-0, 196
Defensive Starters By Class: 3 seniors, 2 juniors, 6 sophs

Alabama-Michigan Comparison

TIDE RESULTS (9-3, SEC 6-2)			WOLVERINES RESULTS (8-3, Big Ten 5-3)		
21	Bowling Green	7	20	Illinois	8
20	Southern Miss	10	20	@ Colorado	13
36	Vanderbilt	26	20	Boston College	14
17	@ Arkansas	7	38	UCLA	9
35	Kentucky	7	16	@ Northwestern	17
24	@ North Carolina State	19	27	Indiana	20
37	Mississippi	0	44	@ Minnesota	10
13	@ Tennessee	20	45	Michigan State	29
26	@ LSU	0	3	@ Purdue	9
16	@ Mississippi State	17	17	Penn State	29
24	Auburn	23	13	@ Ohio State	9
30	Florida	45			
OFFENSE			TIDE	WOLVERINES	
Average Points Per Game			24.9	23.9	
Touchdown			38	31	
Rush-Pass-Other			22-15-1	17-14-0	
Field Goals Made-Attempted			12-16	16-21	
First Downs			222	205	
Rush-Pass-Penalty			119-85-18	102-88-15	
Rushing Yards			2086	1891	
Average Rushing Yards Per Game			173.8	171.9	
Rushing Plays			543	471	
Average Gain Per Rush			3.84	4.01	
Passing Yards			2192	2277	
Average Yards Passing Per Game			182.7	207.0	
Pass Attempts			321	300	
Pass Completions			160	166	
Percentage			49.8	55.3	
Had Intercepted			15	11	
Average Gain Per Pass			6.8	7.6	
Average Gain Per Completion			13.7	13.7	
Total Offensive Yards			4278	4168	
Average Yards Per Game			356.5	378.0	
Average Yards Per Play			4.95	5.41	
Kickoff Returns-Yards-Average			22-532-24.2	30-601-20.0	
Punt Returns-Yards-Average			32-187-5.8	32-213-6.7	
Fumbles-Number Lost			27-13	25-11	
Penalties-Yards			77-615	64-511	
Punts-Average			73-42.3	51-36.4	
Had Blocked			0	1	
Possession Down Conversions			66-200	73-174	
Efficiency			33.3%	42.0%	
DEFENSE					
Average Points Allowed Per Game			15.1	15.2	
Touchdowns Allowed			22	17	
Rush-Pass-Other			9-11-2	9-5-3	
Field Goals Made-Attempted			9-14	17-25	
First Downs Allowed			144	191	
Rush-Pass-Penalty			62-71-11	83-97-11	
Rushing Yards Allowed			1110	1193	
Average Rushing Per Game			92.5	108.5	
Opponent Rushes			392	420	
Gain Per Rush			2.83	2.84	
Passing Yards Allowed			1983	2117	
Average Passing Per Game			165.2	192.5	
Opponent Passes			319	371	
Opponent Completions			132	205	
Percentage			41.4	55.3	
Interceptions			17	13	
Average Gain Per Pass			6.2	5.7	
Average Gain Per Completions			15.0	10.3	
Total Offense Allowed			3093	3310	
Average Per Game Allowed			257.8	300.9	
Average Per Play Allowed			4.36	4.18	
Kickoff Returns-Yards-Average			36-759-21.1	35-705-20.1	
Punt Returns-Yards-Average			31-356-11.5	15-85-5.7	
Opponents Fumbles-Lost			23-13	22-10	
Opponent Possession Down Conversions			45-186	70-193	
Efficiency			24.2%	36.3%	

Wolverines Offense

SE- 86	Tai Streets
3	Todd Brooks
LT- 75	Thomas Guynes
79	Jeff Backus
LG- 51	Damon Denson
78	Noah Parker
C- 52	Rod Payne
89	Mark Bolach
RG- 68	Zach Adami
72	John Partchenko
RT- 77	Jon Jansen
71	Jeff Potts
TE- 80	Jerame Tuman
88	Mark Campbell
QB- 12	Scott Dreisbach
10	Tom Brady
FB- 7	Chris Floyd
34	John Anes
TB- 33	Clarence Williams
8	Chris Howard
FL- 4	Russell Shaw
1	Tyrone Butterfield

SPECIALISTS: PUNTER- 99 Paul Peristeris; KICKOFF-49 Jay Feely; PLACEMENT-19 Remy Hamilton; HOLDER-14 Brian Griesse; SNAPPER-Mark Bolach; KICKOFF RETURN-1 Tyrone Butterfield, 4 Russell Shaw; PUNT RETURNS-35 Chuck Winters, 2 Charles Woodson.

Wolverines Defense

RE- 6	David Bowens
5	Mike Elston
RT- 53	Ben Huff
91	Josh Williams
NT- 96	William Carr
58	Rob Renes
LE- 81	Glen Steele
90	Jauquin Feazell
OLB- 43	Clint Copenhaver
24	Brent Blackwell
ILB- 37	Jarrett Irons
26	Eric Mayes
ILB- 93	Sam Sword
44	Rob Swett
SCB- 23	Woodrow Hankins
38	Brent Washington
WCB- 2	Charles Woodson
30	Andre Weathers
SS- 29	Marcus Ray
27	Steve King
S- 28	Daydrion Taylor
35	Chuck Winters



2516 University Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
1-800-579-TIDE
205/ 752-6222

"TRADITION CONTINUES"

Regular Edition (15820) \$225.00

Signed & numbered by **Daniel**

Moore

Signature Edition (4100)

\$375.00. Signed & numbered by

Daniel Moore and signed by **Coach**

Stallings

Artist Proof Edition (1992) \$475.00

Signed & numbered by **Daniel**

Moore and signed by **Coach**

Stallings

(The above prints are also available autographed by the players in the print for an additional \$150.00.)

"WINNING CONNECTION"

Regular Edition (5000) \$150.00

Signature Edition (2000)

\$350.00

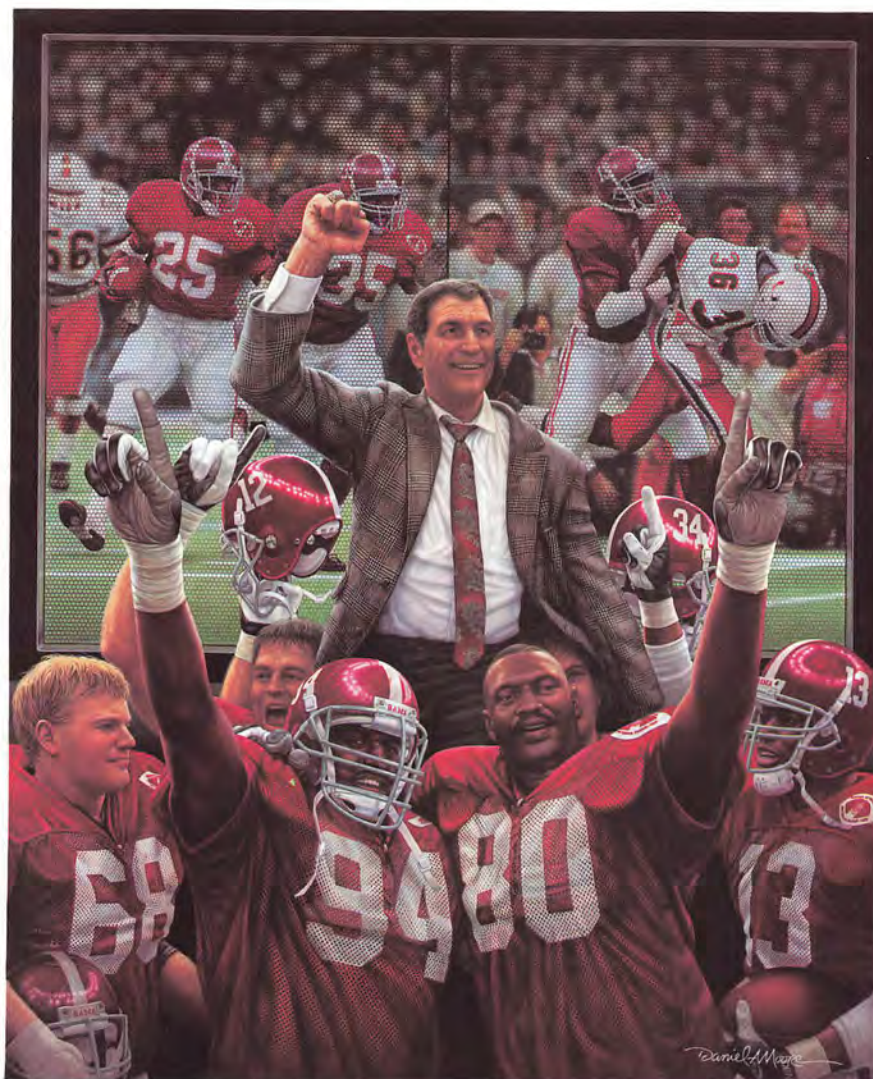
Artist Proof Edition (1000) \$450.00

Add \$150.00 for framing

(Cherry frame, double matted)

Add \$6.00 S/H on prints

Add \$15 S/H on framed prints



"Title Wave"

"TITLE WAVE"

By **Peter Cousins**

©1996 Mark McBride
(205) 350-5666

500 Limited Editions
Signed and Numbered
\$75 with Special
Edition Bronze Coin

5000 Open Editions,
unsigned lithographs
\$30

50 Artist's Proofs
Signed and Numbered
\$150 with Two
Special Edition Coins

Add \$120.00 for
framing
Add \$6.00 S/H on
prints
Add \$15 S/H on
framed prints

Another Good Tide Class

by Kirk McNair

Outback Bowl will mark final appearance for 29

Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings has pointed out that "The cupboard is not going to be bare" for his successor, but the Crimson Tide roster is going to be missing 29 players, the seniors on the 1996 squad.

Those are the last Alabama seniors Stallings will coach since his Crimson Tide career ends with the conclusion of the Outback Bowl game against Michigan. "This has been a good one," Stallings said of the 1996 senior class. "We weren't able to go to a bowl game when they were juniors and they set their sights on making it to the (Southeastern Conference) Championship Game and playing in a bowl game, which they are going to do."

Stallings said, "I've always believed in senior leadership. This year one of our senior captains (linebacker Fernando Davis of Aberdeen, Mississippi) was hurt early in the year and lost for the season. For the rest of the year we had alternating defensive captains, and they did an excellent job." Center John Causey of Hayneville was the offensive captain. The entire squad elected the permanent captains prior to the season.

Since Stallings arrived on campus in 1990, he made it a practice to have breakfast with the seniors every Thursday morning during the season. "It's something I've enjoyed very much," Stallings said.

A handful of this year's seniors were red-shirted in 1992, when Bama won the national championship. While no more national titles came their way, it has been a successful run for the Tide with these seniors. Going into their final game they have been a part of teams that have an overall record of 38-10-1 with three SEC Western Division championships and previous victories in the Gator and Citrus bowls.

Some of the seniors are well-known, and some will continue their football careers at the professional level. Others, playing without benefit of scholarship while they attend The University, are known as Bama football players only to their teammates, family and friends. Nevertheless, all have played a part in Crimson Tide success. Obviously the results of games are in the public eye and the stars of those games are best known, but the players participating on Saturdays have the help all week of many who do not see game



Most honored of Alabama's seniors has been strong safety Kevin Jackson. In his two years at Alabama he has led the SEC in pass interceptions.

Barry Fikes Photo

action, or even dress for more than a few games.

One senior did not participate at all this year, even though he was a pre-season all-star candidate. Defensive end Darrell

Blackburn of Huntsville was ruled medically ineligible because of a kidney problem, one that will involve him receiving a transplant from his mother. But even though Blackburn was not able to play as a senior, he made a

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/JANUARY '97

valuable contribution to this year's squad as a student coach. He was a two-year starter and three-year letterman prior to this year and would have been among Alabama's all-time sack leaders had he been able to play this year.

Davis had to be disappointed when he suffered a severe knee injury in the Arkansas game and had to under go knee surgery that ended his career. Davis had never been a bona fide starter until his senior season.

Causey also had a knee history. He was injured in the Citrus Bowl against Ohio State at the end of the 1994 season and had to under go reconstructive surgery. It was doubtful that he would be able to play in 1995, but he worked extraordinarily hard in the off season and re-gained his starting position, which he has held for three years.

Season-ending injuries aren't limited to the stars. Walk-on defensive tackle Chris Warren of Birmingham, who had seen only spot duty prior to this year, missed the chance to play in his senior year when he suffered an off-season knee injury.

Other seniors for Alabama this year are: Placekicker Jon Brock of Huntington Beach, California; who played only one year after transferring, but kicked the winning point in Bama's 24-23 victory over Auburn; middle linebacker Tyrell Buckner of Denison, Texas; split end Michael Cassidy of Florida; snapper Jackson Cook of Cullman; middle linebacker Rance Crutchfield of Birmingham; offensive tackle Pete DiMario of Tuscaloosa; defensive end Anthony Dowdell of Columbus, Georgia; linebacker Lamont Floyd of Orange Park, Florida; tight end Patrick Hape of Killen; strong safety Kevin Jackson of Dothan; full-back William Leland of Birmingham; snapper Chester Lewis of Tuscaloosa; defensive end Kelvin Moore of Daphne; offensive guard Jeremy Pennington of Vernon; defensive tackle Ozell Powell of Greenville; safety Jeremy Pruitt of Rainsville; cornerback Marlon Reyes of Mexico City; safety Cedric Samuel of Demopolis; strongside linebacker Ralph Staten of Semmes; punter Hayden Stockton of Double Springs; outside linebacker John Tanks of Butler; placekicker William Watts of Pleasant Grove; flanker Marcell West of Niceville, Florida; offensive guard Laron White of Courtland; and full-back Jeffery Whitten of Mobile.

Cook, Dowdell, Lewis, Stockton and Watts all came to Alabama as walk-on players, but earned scholarships prior to their senior seasons.

The seniors will be recognized at the Crimson Tide's annual banquet on January 11. Also recognized with them will be young men critical to Bama football operations, the senior student trainers. They are Chris Boyle of Newport, New Hampshire; Henry Ernst of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Tim Fulmer of Gadsden; Mike Gurley of Brent; Mike Manzella of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Mike Perkins of Tuscaloosa. (There are no

senior managers this year.)

Not all of the seniors were four- or five-year men. Placekicker Brock played only one year after transferring, but kicked the winning point in Bama's dramatic 24-23 victory over Auburn; Jackson was a junior college transfer who went on to win all-star honors and lead the Southeastern Conference in interceptions both as a junior and a senior; Pruitt played for two seasons at Middle Tennessee State before transferring to Alabama and playing in 1995.

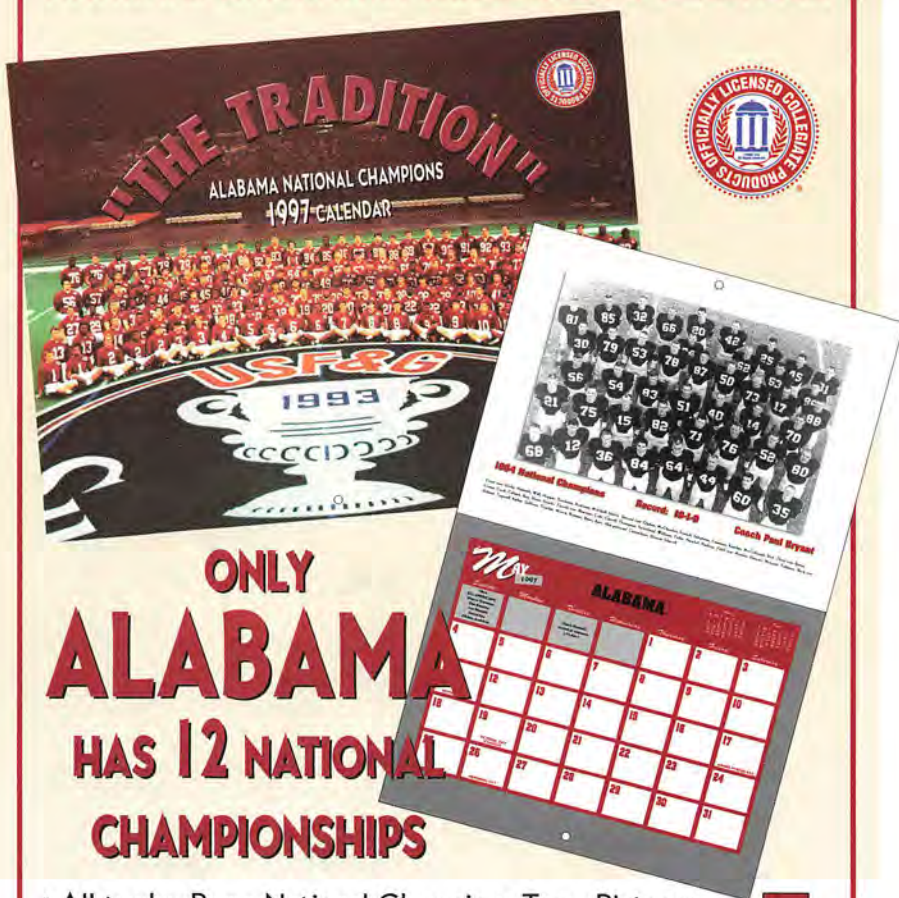
Several Tiders have already received recognition, notably Kevin Jackson, who is a consensus All-Southeastern Conference honoree and has been named to a number of early All-America teams. Causey and Staten were second team All-SEC.

The Delchamps Senior Bowl in Mobile is expected to have several Tiders, including Jackson, Hape, and Staten.

Lewis, Reyes, Samuel, White and Whitten were all Academic All-SEC this year.

Live "The Tradition"

ROLL THROUGH 1997 WITH THE CRIMSON TIDE
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS COLLECTOR'S CALENDAR



- All twelve Bama National Champions Team Pictures
- Names, Records, Future Schedules
- Alabama Football Trivia
- GREAT GIFT IDEA

\$9.95 plus shipping & handling

Randall Publishing Companies, Est. 1934
RANDALL PRODUCTS DIVISION • P.O. Box 2029,
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
Copyright © 1996 Randall Publishing Company Inc.



\$9.95

Order Today
(800) 633-2705

He's Been Movin' On Up

by Donald F. Staffo

Moving from running back to defensive end is big

Reggie Grimes could be a valuable football player as a "Jack-of-all-trades," but it's Alabama's goal to make him master of one. In the past Grimes has seen duty at a number of positions: tailback, fullback, quarterback, strong safety, linebacker, defensive end and defensive tackle. And he was recruited by one school to be a tight end.

Grimes, who is nearing the end of his first season after being redshirted in 1995, has become a mainstay on the Alabama defense at end. Although he has been primarily a back-up to senior Kelvin Moore at right end, he has started two games, one at left end, one at right end, and he has had considerable playing time.

Although his future appears to be as a defensive end because of his size and speed, the 6-4, 271-pounder could conceivably grow into a defensive tackle.

Grimes has had an interesting journey from position to position on the football field. As a freshman at Hunters Lane High School in Nashville, Tennessee, he was 6-3 and 220 pounds...and fast. Late in that 1991 season he became his team's tailback and responded by rushing for 150 yards and three touchdowns in his first start. He followed that up with a 173-yard, one-touchdown game in his second chance. Meanwhile, he continued to play as his team's strong safety.

Grimes said, "My sophomore year we had another good tailback and the coach wanted to find a way to get us both in the game at the same time. Because I could throw, he moved me to quarterback." Grimes said he completed over 50 per cent of his passes and threw "10 or 15" touchdown passes, including a 78-yard scoring strike. "I had a pretty good year," he said. "I connected on a lot of long passes and I think I surprised a lot of people." On defense, he moved from safety to outside linebacker and defensive end.

Grimes remained at quarterback through-

out his junior year. He rushed for over 1,100 yards and also played defensive end. Not just a one-sport star, Grimes also joined the track and field team and finished sixth in the state in discus.

His senior year, when the other tailback was injured during pre-season drills, Grimes moved back to running back, a 250-pound running back. He rushed for 1,388 yards and 23 touchdowns. He averaged over 10 yards per carry and also had two touchdown receptions. And he continued to play on defense at end.

Following his senior season for Coach Jerry Pigue, Grimes was named most valuable player in the Nashville area and in the region and was first team all-state.

Grimes grew up a fan of hometown Tennessee State University, but, strangely, the local school was one of the last to recruit Grimes. "They never even dropped me a letter and they were the last school to recruit me my senior year, so they didn't have a shot," Grimes said. He said if the Tigers had recruited him and if Joe Gilliam had remained as coach, he might be playing for Tennessee State now. That over-

sight allowed other schools to get involved in recruiting Grimes.

Another hometown school, Vanderbilt, as well as the home-state university, Tennessee, joined the likes of Notre Dame, Georgia, Georgia Tech, LSU, Clemson and Alabama in the chase for Grimes. Indeed, Grimes first heard from the Volunteers when he was a ninth grader. However, Tennessee wanted to make Grimes a tight end, and Grimes wanted to play running back. "They said they wouldn't even give me a chance at running back," Grimes said. "They didn't come right out and say that, but they made it clear to me. And they said I wasn't in their plans defensively. They wanted me as an offensive player, but not a running back. That's the main reason I didn't go there."

Georgia Tech and Clemson were the only schools that recruited Grimes as a running back. "I liked Tech and I loved Atlanta, but I never felt they had a chance to win the national championship," Grimes said. He said that Clemson lost out because it was too far from home.

He said that Alabama won out "Because their national championship possibilities were greater than any of the other schools



Reggie Grimes (98) had visions of being a ball-carrier at Alabama. However, he grew into a defensive lineman and now goes after the men with the ball.

Barry Fikes Photo

that recruited me."

Grimes said, "Alabama recruited me as an athlete. I felt I had a chance to play on either side of the ball. Alabama never told me a specific position, but asked me what position I wanted to play. I told them running back and came in with the idea of playing running back."

Grimes got that chance. "We recruited him as an offensive player because Coach (Gene) Stallings felt he looked good as a running back and fullback, but I thought he could be an outstanding defensive end," said Tide Defensive Coordinator Mike Dubose. "I thought he had the potential to be an outstanding rush guy."

By the time Grimes reported to The Capstone he was up to 263 pounds. Still, he got his chance in the offensive backfield, at fullback. That made Grimes think a change was in order. "I had never been a lead blocker, so that was new to me," he said. "I was used to getting the bulk of the carries, and I kind of thought I would get the ball more than I did. After two weeks I had pretty much made up my mind that I was going to change to defensive end."

Grimes said that both Stallings and Dubose were receptive to the move, but allowed Grimes to finish out his redshirt freshman season as a running back and fullback for the scout team. Now, Grimes said, he regrets delaying the move because it cost him experience on defense.

This year Grimes was on the field for about 40 per cent of the snaps, his actual playing time dictated by how he and Moore were playing. "I was surprised to start a couple of games, but not to play, because my goal was to play and play a lot," Grimes said. "That's why I switched positions."

Grimes said that "Getting to start against LSU was exciting because it was a night game and billed as the 'Game of the Week' on ESPN. And my first sack was exciting because it came against Vanderbilt."

Moore, a senior, played most of the game in Bama's 24-23 victory over Auburn. "He had his best game against Auburn," Grimes said. "I really can't complain, because he was playing so good."

Grimes, who bench presses 405, will have plenty of opportunity to play during the next three years.

"He's improved a little more than I thought he would," Dubose said. "He's a little ahead of schedule. He's a big guy who is going to get bigger. He's got great size and great strength to play inside and the quickness to play outside. He's one of those rare guys we could utilize both ways (end or tackle). He's got a good work ethic, he's goal-oriented, and he wants to be as good as he can be. He's got a chance to be an outstanding player."

Grimes sets high goals for himself. He said he wants to be an All-America and challenge former Tide great Derrick Thomas' Bama sack record before he graduates. And he

does plan to graduate. In listing his accomplishments to date, Grimes cites number one as receiving the "Hume Award" at Hunters Lane. That's an award given to the football player with the best grades. "That's because I really worked for it," he said. "My senior year I had a list of goals that I wanted to accomplish, and that was one of them. But I felt it would be the hardest to achieve."

"I knew that I could be all-state and a finalist for 'Mr. Football' and go to a major college, but I felt it would take a little more off the field to keep my grades up to earn that award. That's why it's so important to me."

Grimes knows that another position, defensive tackle, could be in his future. "That would be different, because I've never played in the interior line before," he said, although he did practice there for a time last spring and early this fall. "Everything happens a lot quicker there. I'd rather stay at defensive end, but I'll do whatever it takes to help the team win."

Grimes doesn't regret being out of the glory positions, quarterback and running back, that made him a high school star. "I miss not getting to score any more, but I can still make plays," he said. The thought of returning to tailback brings both a laugh and a shudder. "I don't think that would be in the plans, because we've got a ton of tailbacks with a ton of talent. If I was back at tailback, that would probably mean we've got big problems and a lot of people hurt."

Roll Tide



FOUR GREAT ACTION MOMENTS

featuring the art of Daniel A. Moore

- "The Goal Line Stand" - against Penn State in the 1979 Sugar Bowl.
- "The Sack" - Bennett's famous sack in the 1986 victory over Notre Dame.
- "The Kick" - Van Tiffin's 1985 game winning field goal against Auburn.
- "The Tradition Continues" - commemorating the Sugar Bowl of 1992 and the Tide's National Championship under Coach of the Year, Gene Stallings.

FREE with every Order

- FREE checkbook cover, check register, & deposit slips.
- FREE name & address labels.

LINDA K. FRANKLIN
NEAL B. FRANKLIN
1234 MAIN STREET
ANNISTON, ALA 36204

ROLL TIDE!

SPECIAL OFFER!

Buy your Crimson Tide® checks®, together with pen and leather checkbook cover for just **\$29.95**

*200 single checks or 150 duplicate checks

How To Order:

1. **Enclose order form and voided check** from existing check supply, noting any changes.
2. **Include deposit slip** from existing check supply.
3. **Enclose your payment check.**
4. Fill out the order form and mail with items 1, 2 & 3 to:
Designer Checks • P.O. Box 9300 • Anniston, AL 36202-9300

Call Today! 1-800-239-9222



F03TGG87

ORDER FORM

Start my checks with number _____ (if different from voided check)

☐ My day time phone# _____

SINGLE CHECKS

- ☐ 1 Box (200) \$9.95
- ☐ 2 Boxes (400) \$18.95

DUPLICATE CHECKS

- ☐ 1 Box (150) \$11.95
- ☐ 2 Boxes (300) \$22.95

☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Expiration Date: Mo _____ Yr _____

Card# _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Please check that your credit card number has been filled completely.

Amount for checks	\$
Leather Checkbook Cover \$19.95	\$
Roll Tide Pen \$9.95	\$
Special Roll Tide Offer \$29.95	\$
In-plant rush (optional) \$2.50	\$
Script type (optional) add \$2.00	\$
Name & Address Labels	\$ FREE
Shipping and handling (\$1.00 per box)	\$
Alabama residents add 8% sales tax	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$

Designer P.O. Box 9300 • Anniston, AL 36202-9300

Shamari Buchanan:

Trying Hard To Make His Name Known

by Jeff Janes

Redshirt freshman moved
into '96 playing rotation

Recognition for one's effort is the primary goal of any athlete who takes pride in what he or she does. Shamari Buchanan has quietly worked to receive his deserved share of recognition as a member of the Alabama football team, and the investment he has put into himself is finally paying off.

Buchanan hasn't set any school records or caught the attention of the national media yet, but he has set himself up for what can be a remarkable career. The redshirt freshman from Atlanta is one of the bright stars in a young but battle-tested receiving corps.

The recognition for Buchanan begins with his unique first name: Shamari. "The name itself means leader," Buchanan said. "It's African, or Tanzanian to be exact." As distinctive as the name is, Shamari remembers high school and the way he felt about his name. While most of the kids his age had "regular" names, as he calls them, Shamari marched to his own beat. "It was different but the name really grew on me and the girls liked it so that was nice," Shamari said with a smile.

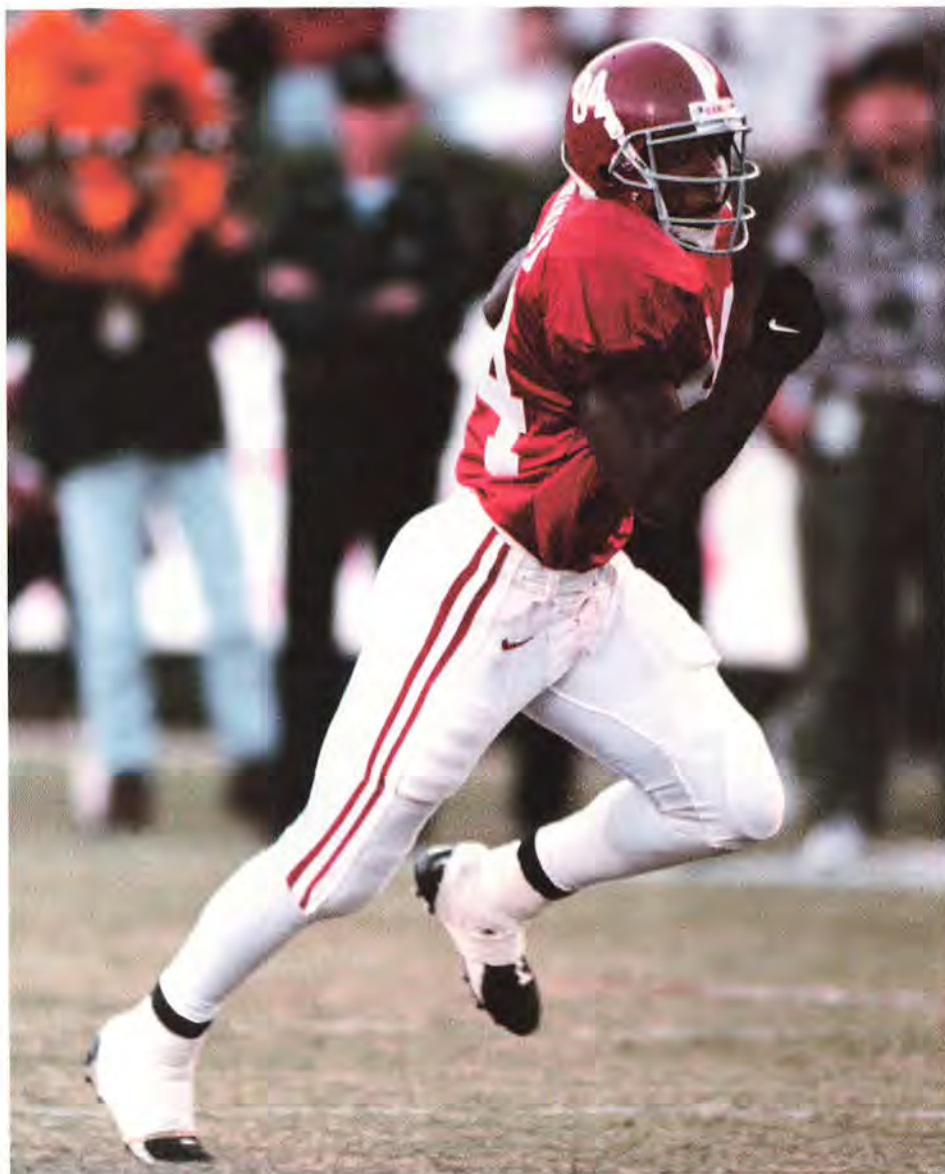
His football career flourished at Douglass High School, an inner-city school in Atlanta known for academics and athletics. Shamari talks proudly of the school's heritage which has recently become renowned for developing top-notch football players. "It is an inner-city school that has really worked hard to develop a positive reputation," Shamari said. "They have turned out several good players recently, including Stanley Pritchett, the fullback for the Miami Dolphins."

Redshirt freshman wide receiver Shamari Buchanan moved into the regular playing rotation in his first year of competition.

Barry Fikes Photo







Alabama's offense is ground-oriented, which means that Shamari Buchanan had to learn to block before he could have an opportunity to play. Now he uses his strength to block and his speed when he does have that pass-catching chance.

Barry Fikes Photo

He remembers Pritchett being the first player to solidify the football tradition at Douglass. The current National Football League star signed his national letter of intent to play at the University of South Carolina and the high school's pipeline to the collegiate level has been strong ever since. In fact, this year's team is one of the most talented in the Southeast in terms of potential division-I football prospects. "Although they lost in the state playoffs this year, they still have some guys on the team who can play college ball," Shamari said. "I think they look up to those of us who have signed scholarships and it gives them some motivation."

Shamari may have never had the opportunity to play with such a premiere program as Douglass' if it had not been for his mother,

Alberta. Due to Atlanta school zoning rules Shamari would not have been allowed to attend the school, but his mother was a teacher at Douglass. A loophole allowing a student to attend school outside of the standard zone if a parent works at the outside school was Shamari's saving grace. It was that kind of break he needed to parlay his talent into a football scholarship.

During his football playing days at Douglass, Shamari began making a name for himself, so to speak. His first two years were spent on the defensive side of the football playing the strong-safety position. "I mostly played defense until my senior year," Shamari said. His move to wide receiver was based on necessity more than anything else. "We were in need of receivers

my senior year so they moved me," Shamari said. The move would prove to be fortuitous for Shamari, whose size and speed impressed college scouts from several big-time programs including Auburn, Mississippi State, Clemson, South Carolina, Purdue and East Carolina. Even more appealing to recruiters was that Shamari ran track, a testament to his speed.

Shamari describes the recruitment process as a fun experience for him until he saw how most of the schools acted to the biggest injury of his career. During the course of his final high school season he broke the fibula in his right leg. "It had been raining on the field," Shamari said. "I was running and I slipped and broke the bone." It was an innocent injury in that it was not career-threatening, but most schools lost interest in him. Shamari admits it was difficult to understand how the scouts who had praised his ability could erase him from their recruiting lists. "It hurt a lot to be treated that way," Shamari said. He had to sit out three games before returning to action but he made the most of his limited opportunities for game experience. His first post-injury reception was an 80-yard touchdown catch. The touchdown reception was a collective "take that" to everyone who had forgotten about the kid from Douglass High School. Everyone slighted him except for Alabama and he remembered that fact when the telephone rang with schools trying to make up for lost time. "They would call and say, 'Do you remember me,' and I would just laugh and say, 'No, I don't think I do,'" Shamari said with a grin. Despite the three-game absence, he was able to collect 15 receptions for 400 yards and five touchdowns.

The persistence and faith which the Crimson Tide showed Shamari was overwhelming and it created quite an impression. "It allowed me to see who really cared," Shamari said. "When it came time to sign I felt like I owed it to them to come to Alabama after what they did for me." That loyalty and the impending graduation of several receivers from the Alabama team were the determining factors for him.

Shamari realized before he signed with Alabama that he would probably be required to take a redshirt due to the depth at his position. The redshirt served him well because it not only provided him with an extra year of eligibility, it allowed him to become accustomed to football on the collegiate level. The improvement in the quality of competition was expected and it was undoubtedly good experience, but playing offense with the Alabama scout team was not the ideal way to gain confidence. Shamari was lackluster in his performance but came to a startling realization during spring practice. "I just realized one day that I was practicing against one of the best defenses in the country," Shamari said. "I started practicing harder and as a result I improved myself. At first I wasn't seen as a

player who would contribute a lot, but the coaches and I have seen my progress."

The word on Buchanan is that he is the prototype receiver in the sense he can catch and block. His extraordinary size and speed allow him to play a more physical and aggressive role in the Alabama offense. As a true freshman he reported to fall drills at 6 feet 2 inches tall and a solid 222 pounds; not your typical receiver. He has since dropped a few pounds in order to improve his speed and while the latest trend on the defensive side of the ball has been smaller, faster cornerbacks, Shamari's size provides an advantage for the offense. "It doesn't take a physics major to figure out that my size and speed give me an advantage over smaller guys," Shamari said. "My junior year I only weighed about 185 pounds but since then I've obviously put on weight and I also grew an inch." Combine his linebacker-type size with his receiver speed and the hybrid result is lethal for the opposing team.

The ground-oriented attack which the Crimson Tide employs does not provide an abundance of opportunities for Shamari to catch a pass but his blocking ability rates among the best of any Alabama receiver in recent memory. He relies primarily on his physical strength and the knowledge he has acquired from Receivers Coach Dabo Swinney. "I feel like my physical strength is my biggest asset and I try to utilize my God-given ability as best I can," Shamari said. "I apply the things Coach Swinney has taught me."

Putting all these tools together allowed Shamari to make the biggest catch of his young career against arch-rival Auburn. On the Tide's game-winning drive Shamari caught a 14-yard pass from Freddie Kitchens on third-down-and-ten which kept the drive alive and stopped the clock momentarily. "The coverage was set up so that I knew the

ball was probably coming to me," Shamari said. "I just tried to stay low and sell the nine route (a deep route in Alabama nomenclature) before I took my hook route."

Buchanan enjoys being recognized for his accomplishments but he is humble enough to spread the wealth when it comes to giving

out credit. "I want everyone to excel, on and off the field," Shamari said. "I'm always looking for ways to praise everyone." Shamari has experienced the highs and lows of college football, but more important is that he realizes the value of positive motivation.



The Perfect Gift For A Couple You Know!

They may not be a match made in heaven, but they shouldn't have to fight over whose color rides the front bumper.

Shown Above

12" x 6" Auto License Plates \$12⁰⁰ ea. (shipping & handling included)

Durable Polystyrene

Also Available

24" x 12" Auto Magnets \$45⁰⁰ ea. (shipping & handling included)

Great for Tailgating or Cruising

Send check or
money order to:

MBSIGNS Dept. B
P.O. Box 263
Opelika, AL 36803-0263

©1996 MBSIGNS



The Ultimate Tailgater

Show your BAMA spirit and take fun with you wherever you go. The **ULTIMATE TAILGATER** is lightweight, easy to carry and sets up anywhere. Folds with its own carrying handle. Made of rust-proof aluminum frame and strong plastic surfaces. Complete with large umbrella, only **\$149.95**, plus S & H.

Ship _____ Tailgater(s) @ \$149.95, plus \$15 Shipping & Handling
(FL residents add 6% sales tax, *Okaloosa Co. add 7%). Make checks payable to:
Gerald Brown • 1191A N. Eglin Parkway #133 • Shalimar, FL 32579.

Ship to: _____

Street _____ City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
(Please, NO Post Office Box)

Tide Finished Fall On A Roll

by Donna Fromme

Both men's and women's teams should be confident going into spring competition



The winter holiday season usually signals one of three things in the college sports world. For the fall sports, notably football, it means the season is at or near an end. For the spring sports, such as baseball, it means the season is still several weeks away. And for winter sports, such as basketball, it means that play is in full swing.

But for a collegiate golf team, the dead of winter simply marks a pause of sorts, a half-time if you will. For the golf season is year-long, beginning with four or five tournaments in the fall, then hitting full force with another half dozen or more in the spring.

The break between fall and spring play for both the Alabama men's and women's golf teams has been met with mixed reaction. On one hand, it makes little sense to attempt to play on courses deadened by winter or in temperatures that make extended stay outside unpleasant. On the other hand, both Bama teams would have loved to keep on the rolls that found this past fall one of Alabama's most successful ever.

For the men, the fall began with great promise. Coach Dick Spybey is fielding one of his most talented squads, top to bottom. Four of his golfers, Chip Deason (twice), Patrick Vadden, Mayson Petty and John Stahlschmidt have been U.S. Amateur qualifiers. In a coach's dream problem, the players Spybey must leave behind out of his competing five (most college tournaments permit five players with the best four scores each day counting towards the team total) could easily be among his playing five—and frequently have been this fall as Spybey mixes and matches to find the best chemistry.

Perfection marked his latest mix of five as the Alabama men concluded fall play by winning The Nelson, a tournament hosted

Alabama's golf fortunes will depend in great part on the play of Chip Deason and Kathryn Cusick.

Barry Fikes Photo

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/JANUARY '97

Real Coolers For Real Fans



TAILGATING IN STYLE

COOLERS

EFFECTIVE: So effective they will keep ice up to 48 hours and never leak!

EXTERIOR: 600 Denier, vinyl laminated Tuf-Duc. Rugged enough to withstand punishment, yet attractive.

INTERIOR: 11 Oz. reinforced vinyl. Heat sealed to prevent leaks. (Guaranteed not to leak or you money back.)

SHOULDER STRAP is standard equipment on all our coolers.

INSULATION: 3/4-thick open-cell insulation enables our coolers to keep cold things cold or hot things hot for longer periods of time.

VERSATILITY: Our coolers can also be used as camera bags, storage bags, lunch bags or travel bags.

ALL LOGOS are embroidered.

HOLIDAY SALE

6-Pack ONLY
~~\$29.95~~ \$24.95

12-Pack ONLY
~~\$39.95~~ \$29.95

24-Pack ONLY
~~\$49.95~~ \$39.95

48-Pack ONLY
~~\$69.95~~ \$59.95

*Recommended By
Equipment Managers and
Trainers of the Top Teams
in the Country!*



TAILGATE CHAIRS

~~\$54.95~~

- Folds and comes with a carrying case with an expandable shoulder strap
- So compact they go anywhere

NOW ONLY \$39.95

40 Schools Available

Camo • Nascar Drivers

*Great Holiday Gifts!
Don't delay, order today!*



**Call 1-800-809-6105 or
1-800-566-5722**

Prices Good through December 31, 1996 • UPS Shipping \$5.00 • Next day shipping while supplies last!

by Tiger Woods' old coach and teammates at Stanford. Alabama bested a field of 17 to win that tournament.

"Obviously," said Spybey, "we were elated to finish the fall on such a positive note. It's something we knew we were capable of doing, and, from that standpoint, the fall had been frustrating."

An eclectic fall it was for the Tide men. Brimming with talent—Alabama returned all five golfers who led the Tide to the 1996 NCAA Championship field—it opened the year finishing ninth among a field of 14 at Virginia's Keswick Club Cavalier Classic. A week later, the team knocked 18 strokes off its game and improved to seventh among a field of 15 at the University of Tennessee's Tournament of Champions. The clubs rested for a couple of weeks of solid practice time only to find Spybey disappointed when his team hosted the Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate at Birmingham's Shoal Creek. Twelve of the best teams in the country competed in the event. But his dream team finished tenth.

"We had very windy conditions on the last day, and with the pin placements, it was a more difficult course," Spybey said. "We had an opportunity to move up on the board, but, unfortunately, we didn't get it done. Patrick Vadden had the low round of the day, but he didn't get any serious help. I had visions of us playing very well at the Jerry Pate National Intercollegiate and going to California and Stanford's tournament as a relaxing finale to the fall. That didn't happen. But they made up for that by winning the Stanford tournament. It's a win that gives us great promise for the spring, and, there's not a better ending to rest your clubs for the winter than by having won your last event. It gives a team a lot of incentive to think about over the two months of rest."

Individually, the team's patriarch of sorts, Chip Deason, continued his steady play. Alabama counted every one of his rounds toward its team score, the only player on the team to achieve that success. After four tournaments and 12 rounds, his average is 73.58 with a low round score for the year of 68. His best finish was a tie for eighth at the Tournament of Champions.

And, just behind the 1996 All-Southeastern Conference golfer's scoring is a fellow senior, Allan MacDonald, second team All-SEC last season. MacDonald's average is 73.83 after four events. He, too, has an eighth place finish, his at the Nelson. In fact, the senior class are within a stroke of one another as 53-ranked (Rolex Collegiate Rankings), Patrick Vadden is averaging 74.42 after four tournaments (including a fifth place finish at the Pate), and Mayson Petty 74.0 after two events, including capping the

fall with an 11th place finish at the Nelson. John Stahl Schmidt, a staple among Alabama's playing five last season, played in three tournaments and is averaging 76.33, and Brian Wright, a constant in Alabama's playing five the last two seasons, played in one event and averaged 77.33.

But the team's low average belongs to a freshman, Lee Davis, who competed in two tournaments and is averaging 72.67. He ranks 48th in the Rolex Collegiate Rankings. He also owns the team's low finish of the year with his one-over-par, third place finish at Stanford's tournament. That came in only his second collegiate tournament. And it came after his debut where he finished in a tie for 45th. "My cap's off to him for having a solid fall," said Spybey. "With his finish and the team's fine finish, I think they'll have some very positive thoughts to get them through the winter."

Where the men have found talent top to bottom, the Tide women's golf team success has been spurred by one powerful addition. Kathryn Cusick transferred to the Tide from Florida, and was an immediate hit. She won the individual championship in two of the four tournaments Alabama competed in this fall, leading her teammates to the tournament championship—in a field of 19—in their season-opener at the Florida State Lady Seminole.

In the fall finale, Alabama was a threat to win again. The Tide lost to Kentucky on the first hole of a playoff to finish second at Florida International's Pat Bradley Invitational.

"This has been one of the most successful falls we have had," said Coach Betty Palmer. "We were disappointed at our eighth place finish at Auburn. That came right after we'd won at FSU. Then we followed that Auburn finish with another eighth place finish at Furman. The scores actually weren't bad. And, ranking-wise, it's the scores that count, not the finish in golf. The bottom line is, we had better scores that countered the high finishes. It balanced it out."

"The highlight was obviously the first place finish at FSU. It came against a talented field. And I was so proud of the way the girls handled themselves. It was our first time out together. And I saw how they reacted together as a team for the first time in competition, and I liked what I saw. We led from start to finish, and that's not easy. And, though Kathryn won it, we had contributions from all five players, contributions that led to the championship."

The women stuck with its line-up of success, Cusick, Johanna Sward, Theres Svedin, Linda Sorensen and Rachael Short, who all

competed in the four fall tournaments. Cusick emerged as the team's scoring leader, averaging 74.36 with three under par rounds and a best round of 69. Alabama counted every round she played, as it did Svedin's, who's averaging 77.45 at the break, Alabama's second-best average.

What has been the secret to the women's success?

"I think it's talent plus fun," said Palmer. "We've worked hard to maintain a relaxed atmosphere at tournaments, and I think that's made a difference. They're comfortable out there, and it's showing in our results."

"Golf is a sport where you are constantly fine-tuning your game, and these girls are willing to put in the extra work that it takes to make those adjustments. And that hard work hasn't been just limited to the five who have traveled so far. Julie Pelchar, who didn't travel in the fall, is an exceptional player who's working hard on her game. Elizabeth Johnston is also fighting for a spot. On the last day of qualifying for the FIU tournament, she shot the lowest round she's shot in our qualifiers, which is a 76. We're looking for positive results in all eight of our players. That, too, makes it fun. We have a very competitive group that understands what it takes to make it to the NCAA Championships, which is our goal."

The key to that goal, an NCAA Championships appearance, could lie in Alabama's franchise player, Cusick. Only twice has Alabama made it to post season play, to the NCAA team championships field in 1987, and to the 1994 East Regional.

"To have someone be able to step up and produce a low round in every tournament is extremely important, and that's exactly what Kathryn has done for us," Palmer said. "She's pushed the other players in a quiet way. Her play has allowed the others to be pushed to another level as well. They feel her presence and it's helping them believe in themselves, that, they, too, can accomplish the same success. She transferred here from Florida, but she wasn't even one of the top players there. Now she's come here and worked hard and won two out of the four tournaments she's played in. She's shown our players that it can be done."

"Kathryn is the only one on our team who knows the feeling, the experience, and the environment of going to the national championships. And she wants to go back. She's conveyed those feelings to her teammates. And through her, they've felt it. They want to experience it, too. We're hungry. Our scores are good. But we can't sit and rest on our laurels. We're not there yet. We have to have 100 per cent effort from everyone to get to Ohio State and the national championships. And right now, I like our chances."

Plenty Of Skill In The South

by Kirk McNair

While Bama emphasis may be on linemen and linebackers, skill players needed, too

Although it is our guess that most of Alabama's 24 football scholarships used on February 5, signing day, will be for big men (linemen, linebackers and tight ends), the skill position players draw most of the attention from fans. And Alabama's coaches will be looking for those skill position players, particularly in the secondary.

Here is a look at some of the top skill position players around the South, many of whom have been linked to Alabama, either Bama having an interest in them or them having an interest in the Crimson Tide. This list has been compiled from various publications, and the actual recruiting list of Alabama coaches is almost certainly different. These prospects are listed alphabetically by states.

FLORIDA

Bennie Alexander, a 5-10, 170-pound defensive back for Coach Robby Pruitt at Lake Butler Union County is sometimes overlooked because Union County has one of the nation's top defensive linemen in Gerard Warren. But Alexander, who runs a 4.45 40-yard dash, is an excellent athlete and a contact player.

James Burroughs, a 6-2, 185-pound wide receiver at Pahokee, will visit Alabama January 17. He didn't have as good a year as a senior because his team was not as pass-oriented said his coach, Joe Marx, but he has 4.5 speed and great bloodlines (his father, James, played for the Colts, and his cousin, Ken, for the Oilers). As a junior he had 32 catches for 525 yards and six touchdowns, while as a senior he had 12 receptions for 275 yards and three scores. Burroughs could also be a fine defensive back.

Demonray Carter, 5-11, 175, is a running back with 4.4 speed at Pensacola. He had one of the most sensational games in Florida history this year as he rushed for 462 yards and six touchdowns on only 12 carries. After a junior year in which he rushed for over 1,500 yards, this year in regular season play he had 183 carries for 2,290 yards and 25 touchdowns.

Derrick Gibson, 6-2, 195, is considered by some to be the top safety in Florida. The Miami Killian star has drawn recruiting attention from Florida State, Notre Dame, Nebraska and Tennessee. He runs a 4.55 40.

One of the most intriguing stories of the year has been that of Travis Henry, the 5-8, 205-pound running back at Frostproof. He

went into the final game of the year needing only 250 yards to become the top rusher in high school history. While 250 may seem like a lot, Henry did not have a game under 200 yards going into that contest and had several over 300 and a top game of 428. He cracked the 2,000-yard barrier after seven games and became the Florida record-holder with 3,011 (and 26 touchdowns) in 10 regular season games. While Alabama leads a list of out-of-state suitors, most expect him to stay in state.

William McCray is a 6-0, 212-pound fullback at powerful Jacksonville Bolles, where Alabama is having recruiting success this year. Florida publications say he is a lock for FSU, but he does plan to visit Alabama. A three-year starter with 4.5 speed, McCray finished regular season play with 133 carries for 967 yards and 28 touchdowns.

Rashad Pittman, 6-0, 215, is considered a linebacker prospect by many after he recorded 122 tackles as a junior, but Alabama is looking at the Marianna star as a fullback. He runs a 4.5 40.

Chris Reier is the quarterback at powerful Jacksonville Bolles, but he expects to be a cornerback at Alabama. The 5-9, 175-pounder, who is also an excellent baseball player, committed to Alabama after making a visit in October. He is capable of playing any skill position, returning kicks and even punting. Although he has been an offensive player the past two years, he has stepped in to play cornerback in tough situations. As a sophomore he was a full-time cornerback and led the state in interceptions with eight.

Antonio Roundtree is another Jacksonville Bolles star capable of playing more than one position. The 5-8, 175-pounder is listed as a



SOUTHEASTERN RECRUITING

"For 13 years, the South's most complete recruiting newsletter!"

PRE-SEASON TOP 300: Available September 7. A detailed player profile filled with photos, stats, and early college lists of the Top 300 H.S. seniors in the South.

FOUR RECRUITING UPDATES: Mid November, Mid December, and two reports in January indicating visits, leanings, and commitments. Nearly 400 prospects listed in each update.

POST-SEASON MAGAZINE: Comprehensive evaluation filled with complete recruiting classes of the SEC, ACC, and major southern independents.

To subscribe: Send \$35.00 to:

Southeastern Recruiting, P.O. Box 57347, Atlanta, GA 30343

SE Recruiting Hotline: 1-900-786-4400

The most up-to-date recruiting information available for your favorite school. \$1.49 a minute. Calls may be made from a touch tone or rotary dial telephone.

Continuously updated beginning November 1, 1996.

Under 18 get permission before calling. Advanced Telecom Services, Philadelphia, PA



Bennie Alexander



Chris Reier



Jasper Sanks



Ryan Clark



Romaro Miller

wingback in most recruiting lists. He could be a wide receiver, running back or defensive back. He runs a 4.45 40. As a junior he rushed for 935 yards and 11 touchdowns. He's also an outstanding kick return man.

Adrian Weeks is another outstanding defensive player at Lake Butler Union County. The 6-0, 180-pounder, who runs a 4.5 40, is a strong safety. As a junior he intercepted six passes and returned five of them for touchdowns. He was second team all-state as a junior.

Desmond White is yet another in the great list of players at Jacksonville Bolles. The 6-2,

215-pound defensive back is the fastest player on the team, clocking a 4.39 40 at the Ohio State football camp. White is also an excellent kickoff return man. He is also a track star.

Lake Butler Union County has yet another excellent defensive player in Andrew Zow. Although the 6-2, 205-pounder was hampered with a knee injury, he is an excellent athlete who has been his team's quarterback and free safety. He had seven interceptions as a junior.

GEORGIA

Terrance Barlow is a 5-9, 170-pound cor-

nerback at Atlanta Douglass, the school that gave Bama wide receiver Shamari Buchanan. Last year he turned in six interceptions. He has also been a star as a running back, picking up over 1,000 yards as a junior. He is listed a 4.38 in the 40 and was state champion in the 100-meter dash last year. He's a cousin of former Auburn player Corey Barlow.

Nicky Callaway, 6-0, 180, is a running back at Washington Wilkes. He's listed at 4.3 in the 40 and had over 1,000 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior. He is also a track star and an excellent student.

If there is a faster football player than Callaway, it may be Justin Coleman, a wide receiver at Columbus Carver. Coleman has also been clocked at 4.3. He's a 5-11, 165-pounder who had 20 catches for 300 yards as a junior.

Kyle Crabb is a 6-4, 210-pound quarterback at Dublin. Last year he had 87 completions in 170 attempts for 1,500 yards and 20 touchdowns while suffering only seven interceptions.

The best high school secondary in the nation may be at Josey High School in Augusta. No fewer than three players are projected as college signees from Josey's defensive backfield, one reason that team went 15-0 in 1995. They are John Fielding, a 6-2, 185-pound strong safety; Deon Grant, a 6-3, 196-pound free safety; and Armark Tolbert, a 6-1, 185-pound cornerback.

Fielding, who runs a 4.58 40, had 45 tackles as a junior.

Grant, who runs a 4.5 40, was all-state as a junior as he had eight interceptions and 60 tackles.

Tolbert, who runs a 4.45 40, is a four-year starter who can play either wide receiver or cornerback. He was all-state as a junior with 28 pass receptions for 721 yards and nine touchdowns. He has eight interceptions as a sophomore, seven as a junior.

Jamar Hayes, 6-0, 215, is a running back at Lilburn Parkview, where he was primarily a linebacker until his senior year. Last year he had spot duty in the backfield and gained 250 yards. He formerly played at powerful Clarke Central in Athens. He runs a 4.5 40.

Chris Horne is a 6-0, 213-pound free safety at Washington County High School in Sandersville. He runs a 4.53 40.

SPORTSLINE ANSWERS QUESTIONS EVERY COLLEGE FOOTBALL FAN ASKS.

Forget the updates on fund raisers and new buildings. SportsLine USA has what you really need.

- Get exclusive inside coverage from the top football reporters.
- Find out where the top high school prospects will be playing next year.
- Follow every Division I-A, I-AA, II and III college

VISIT SPORTSLINE NOW AND SAVE UP TO \$1000 IN TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINMENT.

HOW do things look for the old Alma Mater?

WHAT is the scoop on the new recruits?

WHAT was the coach thinking on that play?

WHAT do the experts think of this week's game?

WHO'S looking good in practice?

WHERE do we fit in the bowl picture?

game as it happens on your PC.

- Get exclusive team and conference reports.
- Win big cash prizes in our exclusive football contests.
- Win all expense paid trips to major games and personally autographed memorabilia from your favorite stars.

- Nail your pre-game picks using matchup analysis and predictions put out by the top pros in Vegas.
- Get continuously updated odds posted directly from the Vegas casinos.

So if you're a true college football fan, call SportsLine USA at 1-800-781-9444

or visit us at www.sportslines.com. (Use preferred customer #CSUA996).

WIN BOWL GAME TICKETS ON SPORTSLINE

Separate Internet access charges may apply. Not affiliated with the NFL or NCAA. Information subject to change without further notice. SportsLine USA is a trademark of SportsLine USA, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved. ©1996 SportsLine USA.

SportsLine
USA

<http://www.sportslines.com>

SportsLine is available on the World Wide Web through America Online, CompuServe, Prodigy and Microsoft Network or through direct Internet access.

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE 30-DAY TRYOUT. 1-800-781-9444.

The top place-kicking prospect in the South is J.R. Jenkins of Loganville, who went to Alabama's football camp last summer and who has made several unofficial visits to Alabama. He is a 6-1, 180-pounder. He was perfect on 50 extra points as a junior and also made 12 of 16 field goal attempts with a long of 42.

Jamal Lewis was considered the top candidate to be Mr. Football in Georgia this year after an all-state performance as a junior. He is a 6-1, 225-pound running back at Atlanta Douglass. He rushed for over 1,200 yards and 12 touchdowns as a sophomore and 1,900 yards and 25 touchdowns as a junior. And he's also considered to be an excellent blocker.

LaBrone Mitchell, 6-3, 205, is a quarterback at Marietta. He passed for 1,174 yards and 10 touchdowns as a sophomore and 1,500 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior.

Jasper Sanks, a 6-2, 215-pound running back at Columbus Carver was reported as being very excited at an Alabama football game this year, and it was one of Bama's best games. Unfortunately, Sanks was excited to be making a visit to LSU, and sources in Louisiana believe he is leaning to the Bengal Tigers. He runs a 4.5 40 and some consider him the top running back in Georgia. He rushed for 2,056 yards and 21 touchdowns as a junior and also caught seven passes for touchdowns.

Levi Scott is a 5-11, 170-pound speed running back at Springfield North Effingham. He was regional player of the year as a junior as he rushed for over 1,800 yards and 19 touchdowns. He runs a 4.4 40.

Ed Wilder, 6-2, 240, is a fullback at Washington Wilkes, where he teams with Nicky Callaway to make a devastating backfield attack. Although he is an exceptional blocker, he is also a big yardage runner, picking up over 1,000 yards and 12 touchdowns as a sophomore, over 1,500 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior. Some are recruiting him as a future nose guard.

Travis Zachery, 6-1, 185, is a running back at Marietta. Last year he was all-state as he rushed for 1,821 yards and 25 touchdowns on 259 carries. As a sophomore he had 1,511 yards and 14 touchdowns. He runs a 4.4 40.

LOUISIANA

One would think that Alabama would have a chance to sign Major Applewhite, a 6-2, 195-pound quarterback at Baton Rouge Catholic, even though he is in the shadow of LSU. Applewhite is the son of an active Alabama alumnus. He has camped at Alabama. He has made numerous trips to see Alabama football games. And he was named for former Bama running back Major Ogilvie. However, reports from Louisiana are that Alabama was not actively recruiting Applewhite and so he made a non-binding commitment to Texas A&M. As a junior he completed 95 of 176 passes for 1,436 yards with 20 touchdowns and only five interceptions.

A teammate of Applewhite is defensive back Greg Brown, 6-3, 188. Although he is a cornerback in high school, he is projected as a safety in college. He has also played wide receiver and is his team's place-kicker (he's an outstanding soccer player) and is a member of the track team as a sprinter. He was at Alabama's football camp last summer.

Ryan Clark, 5-11, 185, was ranked as one of the top defensive backs in Louisiana despite "only 4.5 speed" in the 40. Clark is the top defensive player for powerful Marrero Shaw.

Reggie Wayne, a 6-2, 190-pound wide receiver at Marrero Ehret is considered by some to be the nation's best prep receiver. His coach, Billy North, said he is the first player in Ehret history to have over 1,000 yards receiving for three consecutive years. He has averaged over 50 receptions a season for three years.

MISSISSIPPI

Rufus Brown, a 6-1, 195-pound running back at Belzoni Humphreys County, suffered a hamstring pull as a junior, but that didn't keep the college scouts from finding out about him. That's because he rushed for 392 yards on 25 rushes for seven touchdowns and caught 17 passes for 279 yards and another touchdown in only three games. As a sophomore he had rushed for 776 yards with 12 touchdowns and had 31 catches for 680 yards and seven touchdowns. He also returned a punt for a touchdown.

Shalando Jones has been a running back in Pontotoc's wishbone offense this year and accounted for over 1,000 yards and 20 touchdowns. However, the 6-2, 185-pounder is considered the top wide receiver prospect in Mississippi. He has 4.4 speed. He is also an outstanding defensive back and kick return man and averaged over 39 yards as a punter.

Dulymus McAllister, a 6-2, 200-pound running back at Morton was considered a "sleeper" by some prior to this year, but it's hard to hide his talents. He has 4.4 speed in the 40 and the ability to play a number of positions. As a junior he rushed for over 1,000 yards and 14 touchdowns.

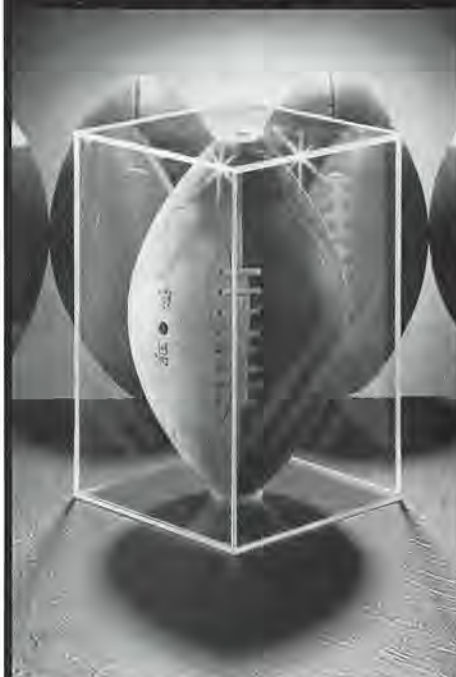
Romaro Miller, a 6-1, 190-pound quarterback at Shannon, has put up some big numbers as a four-year starter. He has completed 490 of 990 passes for 7,700 yards and 77 touchdowns with 30 interceptions and has rushed for 3,078 yards and 35 touchdowns. This year he led his team into the state playoffs by passing for 2,209 yards and rushing for 897.

Clarence "Tootie" Myers, 5-11, 170, first made his name known to Bama fans when word got out from Alabama's football camp last summer about the speedster (4.45 in the 40) wide receiver from Petal. He has made over 100 catches the past two years. He is also an outstanding baseball player.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Jason Flanders, a 6-4, 185-pound quarterback at Charleston Wando is the only skill position player in South Carolina being linked to Alabama. He has attracted the at-

BALLQUBE, INC. FOOTBALL & MINI-FOOTBALL HOLDERS



TO ORDER BY PHONE: 1-800-543-1470
8 A.M. TO 5 P.M. C.S.T. MONDAY-FRIDAY OR
FAX YOUR ORDER ANYTIME 903-863-5571 OR
SEND CHECK TO: P.O. BOX 510 CUSHING, TX 75760

Ordered by: (Please Print) _____ Ship to: (if different) _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Card# _____
EXP. Date _____ Phone # _____
Name as appears on card: _____
Signature: _____
Card# _____
EXP. Date _____ Phone # _____
BALLQUBE® Football holders
1 Holder.....\$12.95 ea.....\$
2-5 Holders.....\$25.00 per holder.....\$
1 Case/6 Holders.....\$22.50 ea.....\$
2 Cases/12 Holders.....\$20.50 ea.....\$
BALLQUBE® MINI Football holders
1 Holder.....\$12.95 ea.....\$
2-3 Holders.....\$12.00 ea.....\$
4-7 Holders.....\$11.00 ea.....\$
1 Case/8 Holders.....\$94.00 per case (\$10.50 ea.)
sub Total.....\$
Texas Residence add sales tax 6.25%.....\$
Total.....\$
P.O. BOX 510 CUSHING, TX 75760

1-800-543-1470

attention of Notre Dame, Florida and Tennessee, among others. He has made at least one unofficial recruiting trip to Alabama. As a junior in an option attack he passed only 135 passes, but completed 75 for 1,187 yards and eight touchdowns. His father played at Clemson.

TENNESSEE

Brentwood Academy has one of the best football programs in Tennessee and two of their backs are college prospects. Kurston Biggers is a 5-8, 185-pound wingback who projects as a running back while Tito Lee is a 5-11, 210-pound fullback who is being recruited by some schools as a linebacker.

Biggers, who runs a 4.47 40, rushed for over 1,400 yards and 23 touchdowns as a junior as he averaged 8.5 yards per carry. He is also a good pass receiver and defensive back.

Lee, who runs a 4.5 40, is an exceptional football player. He was all-state as a junior because of his defensive play. Although he rushed for over 800 yards and 26 touchdowns, on defense he had 148 tackles, three sacks, three fumbles caused, two fumbles recovered, and two pass interceptions.

Oak Ridge, on the outskirts of Knoxville, also has two skill position college prospects. Shaun Bohannon is a 6-2, 195-pound running back, while Mike Gipson is a 6-0, 175-pound all-around athlete who projects as a college wide receiver.

Bohannon, who runs a 4.5 40, was East Tennessee Player of the Year and all-state as a junior as he rushed for 1,700 yards and 24 touchdowns. He also stars in track and basketball.

Gipson, who runs a 4.55 40, averaged over 100 yards per game as a junior running back and had 50 tackles and three fumble recoveries as a defensive back. He is also a good

basketball player and student.

Mario Kelso, 6-0, 170, is a defensive back at Smyrna LaVergne. Although he was considered a "sleeper" by some, his 4.46 speed caught the attention of a number of recruiters. So did his 7.9 yards per carry average from his wingback position. However, it is on defense where he stars and where he is projected to play in college.

Andre Lott, 6-2, 185, is a great all-around athlete at Memphis Melrose. He is projected as a defensive back in college. He runs a 4.43 40 and has played quarterback and in the secondary as a cornerback. Last year he had 60 tackles and four interceptions on defense, completed 60 of 87 passes for 612 yards and nine touchdowns on offense.

Johnta Martin, 6-3, 200, is a linebacker at Murfreesboro Riverdale, but he is expected to be a fullback or strong safety in college. He runs a 4.5 40 and has a junior was in on 96 tackles, caused two fumbles and recovered one. As a fullback he rushed for over 600 yards and seven touchdowns.

Jarvis Smith is a 6-2, 230-pound fullback at Soddy Daisy. He's a yard-making fullback as he had over 1,200 yards and 16 touchdowns as a junior. He has 4.5 speed to make long runs. He played linebacker on defense. He has spent the past three summers at Tennessee's camp.

Travis Stephens, a 5-10, 185-pound running back at Clarksville Northeast, has gotten the most national attention of any Tennessee prep star this year. That's because he has 4.4 speed and had over 2,500 yards and 23 touchdowns as a junior and was 5A Mr. Football and all-state. He also played safety and had 87 tackles and two interceptions.

Kelcey Williams, 5-11, 205, is a running back at Humboldt, where he had over 2,600

yards and an incredible 43 touchdowns on 290 carries. He also plays linebacker on defense.

Cleveland isn't very far from Knoxville, but that city has sent a number of good football players elsewhere, including Steve Sloan to Alabama to win national championships and Steve Spurrier to Florida to win the Heisman Trophy. The latest great one from Cleveland is Stepfon Woods, a 5-11, 210-pound running back who was all-state as a junior. Last year he rushed for over 1,500 yards and 26 touchdowns.

TEXAS

Gary Baxter, 5-11, 180, is a defensive back at Tyler John Tyler who has been considering Alabama. It is not known if Texan Gene Stallings' departure from Bama will alter Tide recruiting efforts in the Lone Star State.

Mickey Jones, a 5-10, 175-pound defensive back, stars at John Tyler. He also plays quarterback and was instrumental in Tyler's state championship team as a sophomore. And he could be a wide receiver. He said that he is deciding between Texas, Texas A&M and Alabama. He runs a 4.5 40.

Chris Lewis, 5-10, 185, is a quarterback at renowned Dallas Carter, but that's only out of necessity. He could also play defensive back. But Lewis is most at home at wide receiver, and that's where he is ranked as among the nation's top prospects. He has said he is leaning to Texas, but that if he goes out of state he will choose between Alabama and Oklahoma. Before moving to quarterback he caught 10 passes, three for scores. He also returned a punt 64 yards for a touchdown. He runs a 4.3 40.

Another defensive back/wide receiver at Carter is Michael Jefferson, 6-3, 200, who runs a 4.4. He said he is favoring Oklahoma State, Minnesota and Alabama.

Alabama Football Recruiting Off To A Good Start

In a year that has been described as the most critical football recruiting year since Coach Paul Bryant returned to Alabama following the 1957 season, the Crimson Tide is off to an unusually fast start in securing the commitments of top high school senior stars.

No fewer than five outstanding players have already announced that they intend to sign with Bama. Three of those commitments came in the days following the announcement that Mike Dubose would succeed Gene Stallings as Alabama's head football coach.

It should be noted that a public commitment is not binding, but such commitments almost always hold up. Signing date is February 5. Alabama has 25 scholarships to give this year, one to an eligible junior college player in the early period and 24 to high school seniors and other junior college sophomores in February.

High school seniors who have announced they intend to sign with Alabama this year are:

Kecalf Bailey, a 5-10, 175-pound cornerback from Tuscaloosa Central.

Tony Dixon, a 6-1, 195-pound defensive back from Pickens County High School in Reform.

Sam Matthews, a 6-6, 265-pound defensive lineman from Jacksonville (Florida) Bolles.

Chris Reier, a 5-9, 175-pound cornerback from Jacksonville Bolles.

Joe Yount, a 6-4, 255-pound defensive end from Albertville.

Additionally, there is no reason to believe that Kenny Smith, the 6-7,

265-pound defensive lineman from Stevenson North Jackson, who signed with Alabama last year but was ineligible, will not sign again with Bama. He has spent this year as a student assistant coach for his high school team while making up school deficiencies in order to be eligible.

It is also being reported that running back James Johnson of East Mississippi Junior College in Scooba, Mississippi, was planning to sign with Alabama in the early period, which was to begin Wednesday, December 18. Johnson, 6-2, 228, is originally from Eight Mile, near Mobile. He rushed for 909 yards and 14 touchdowns this season. He is eligible to enter Alabama in the spring semester and take part in spring training. An additional advantage to the signing of Johnson would be that he did not play as a freshman, and so has three years of eligibility remaining.

As everyone who has followed recruiting knows, nothing spawns rumors more than the football recruiting season. In the past, talk radio and unscrupulous "recruiting experts" with 900 numbers have been the most unreliable sources of recruiting information. Now there's a new culprit to deal with: the internet. While there is some good information in cyberspace, it appears there is also much of the same misinformation that appears innocently on talk radio shows. Take what you hear and read from the sources with a dose of skepticism.

—Kirk McNair

A passion for printing. Your way.

EBSCO Media exists totally to serve our customers. In a high speed world of automation, electronics, and deadlines, we remain a company obsessed with old fashioned service. Your budget, your deadline, your quality standards, your satisfaction, are our obsessions. We use the tools and techniques of the modern world to accomplish these things, never losing sight of our primary goal, pleasing you.

Achieving that goal takes two important ingredients: it takes an incredibly well designed printing plant and it takes an incredibly well designed attitude on behalf of our employees. We have meticulously created and designed one of the most streamlined, productive printing plants in the nation, with plenty of room, plenty of light, and every timesaving system available.

EBSCO personnel, from sales consultants to shipping clerks, participate in company profits. Our hands-on management policies, team-like approach, and employee incentives keep our people motivated to work for you. But underneath all that, they're just special. They won't rush you off the phone or shuttle you to someone else. You'll find they not only know the business technically, they care.



EM EBSCO MEDIA

801 Fifth Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35233
(205) 323-1508

division of
EBSCO
INDUSTRIES, INC.



Tide Baseball Hits It Big

by Kirk McNair

Alabama announces more signees from early period

The early signing period for sports other than football, volleyball and soccer (those fall sports have only one signing period which begins February 5) provided some good men and women for Alabama teams. While there had been hopes of an additional men's basketball signee or two, Coach David Hobbs was unable to add to his previously announced list of three signees.

As previously announced, Alabama's early men's basketball signees are Neil Ashby, a 6-9, 190-pound forward from Tri-Cities High School in East Point, Georgia; Tarik London, a 6-1, 180-pound point guard from Beach High School in Savannah, Georgia; and Terrance Martin, a 6-3, 175-pound wing player from Tuscaloosa Central.

Bama had high hopes of adding at least one more player in the early signing period, and it appeared the best bet for a signature was from Francisco Elson, a 7-0, 230-pound center at Kilgore Junior College in Texas. However, the native of The Netherlands, elected to wait until the late signing period. Alabama is considered the leader for Elson, but a delay is not good for the leader. Bama was also involved with Tyrus Boswell, a 6-8, 230-pound power forward at Mountain Brook High School in Birmingham who was generally considered the state's top prospect. However, Boswell signed with Mississippi State.

The Alabama women's team of Coach Rick Moody was expected to have several signees in the early period (and may have added at least one not yet announced), but the only publicly released signee is Yalika Barnes, a 5-8 guard/forward from Carver High School in Montgomery. She was rated the top women's prospect in Alabama.

The spring signing period for non-fall sports begins April 9.

However, while basketball did not have any names to add to its signing lists, other sports, notably baseball, have added more future Crimson Tiders.

Unlike football and men's basketball, the ebb and flow of recruiting in other sports are not closely monitored by the public and the press. Therefore, release of information about signees in those sports is sometimes slow. It is believed that there will be announcement of additional signees from the early signing period, which was November 13-20, following the start of the spring semester at Alabama in January.



Justin Lombardi

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Jim Wells previously announced seven new signees: First baseman/outfielder Major Allred of Birmingham McAdory; second baseman Sam Bozanich of Bakersfield, California; pitcher Jamie Brown of Meridian (Mississippi) Community College; first baseman/outfielder Jack Cust of Flemington, New Jersey; pitcher B.J. Green at Birmingham Gardendale; catcher Paul Phillips of Meridian Community College; and shortstop Jason Smith of Meridian.

Wells has since been able to announce five additional signees for the Crimson Tide. They are:

Donnie Bridges, who is considered the state's top prospect, is a 6-3, 190-pound right-handed pitcher from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is expected to be a first round selection in next June's amateur draft. He is coached by Harry Breland at Oak Grove High School, the same school that produced Bama right fielder Dustan Mohr and which has won six state championships. Last year he had a 7-6 record despite an earned run average of only 1.08 and he recorded 141 strikeouts. As a shortstop he hit .506 with four home runs and 31 runs batted in. He is also his team's quarterback on the football team and a forward on the basketball squad.

Chaz Eigeren is a 6-5, 220-pound first baseman at Seward County Community College in Liberal, Kansas. He was freshman of the year in the Jayhawk West Conference last season as he hit .393 (57 for 145) with 15 home runs and 67 runs batted in. He had 13 doubles, three triples and walked 24 times in 44 games. He led Seward County to a 40-18 record and the Jayhawk West con-

ference championship. Last summer he played for the Liberal BeeJays in the wooden bat Jayhawk League and guided the BeeJays to the National Baseball Congress World Series. He was named to the NBC All-America team. (Also on that team was current Alabama second baseman Joe Caruso, who played for Nevada in the Jayhawk League.) Chaz was a 40th round pick by the Houston Astros last season. A native of Broomfield, Colorado, he was an all-state player as a prep senior. He hit a state record 34 home runs during the summer of 1995 for the Boulder (Colorado) Connie Mack team.

Justin Lombardi is a 6-5, 205-pound left-handed pitcher at Croyle and Cassidy High School in Taunton, Massachusetts. His coach, Brian Nichols, said Lombardi is considered the number one pitching prospect in New England. In his three-year high school career, Lombardi has compiled a 20-5 record and 1.55 earned run average. In 149 career innings he has allowed 33 earned runs and 102 hits while walking 99 and striking out 235. Last year he was 10-3 with an earned run average of 0.86. In 73 innings he allowed only nine earned runs and 41 hits while striking out 131 and giving up 47 walks. He holds school records for strikeouts in a game (16), season (90) and career (235). Along with Tide signees Jack Cust and Sam Bozanich, he was selected to participate in last year's Area Code Games in Long Beach, California. He and Cust were also selected for the United States Olympic Trials.

Kris McWhirter is a 6-4, 185-pound right-handed pitcher at Davidson Academy High School in Nashville, where he is considered the top prospect in the state of Tennessee, according to his coach, Randy Locke. Over the past two years he has posted a record of 13-3 with an earned run average just over 1.00. As a junior last spring he had a record of 8-2 with an earned run average of 0.87. In 63 innings he allowed eight earned runs and 47 hits while striking out 98 and walking only 17, nearly a 6 to 1 ratio of strikeouts to walks. He averaged nearly 11 strikeouts per seven-inning game. He had been 5-1 with a 1.35 earned run average as a sophomore. In summer league play he compiled a 15-0 record, pitching over 95 innings, allowing 59 hits and nine earned runs. He also had five saves and an earned run average of 0.66 and struck out 101, walked only 25.

Justin Smith is a 6-2, 195-pound left-handed pitcher and outfielder at Seward County Community College in Liberal, Kansas, will have three years of eligibility remaining because he was redshirted his freshman year in junior college because of injury. He is also a hard-hitting outfielder who batted .494 with 10 home runs in Seward's fall schedule. A native of Elk City, Oklahoma, he was an all-state performer as a senior. He played sum-



Robin Hawkins



Lissy Smith



Paula Carter

mer baseball with the Liberal BeeJays in the Jayhawk League.

Coach Sarah Patterson has proved over the years that she can select gymnasts capable of reaching national championship heights. For those future championship meets she has signed three new performers.

Robin Hawkins and Lissy Smith are both from Memphis, where they compete with the Memphis Gymstars and are coached by Gene and Donna Alexin. Katie Hornecker of Bloomington, Illinois, signed with the Tide out of the Illinois Gymnastics Institute, where she is coached by Todd Gardiner.

Hawkins is a native of Memphis and has helped lead the Memphis Gymstars to 14 state championships. She is a member of the 1995 and 1996 Region Team. Hawkins also competes in volleyball and basketball for St. Agnes Academy. She is vice president of her senior class and was most valuable player for her volleyball team as a freshman.

Smith is a three-time National Competitor and Tennessee state champion in 1995 and 1996. A native of Orange Park, Florida, she was a 1993 member of the United States Junior Olympic squad. She has spent the last six years as part of the Region VIII team. She attends Bartlett High School. She has been a member of the past two Memphis Gymstar state championship teams.

Hornecker won first place in the all-around at the IGI Cruise Meet in 1996. At the 1996 National Gymfest, the Glenbard North High School senior finished first in the vault and eighth in all-around. At the 1996 American Institute Classic she finished first in vault and floor. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Coach Betty Palmer has signed the two-time Tennessee state champion to play for the Alabama women's golf

team. Paula Carter of Henry County High School in Paris finished first in the 1995 and 1996 state tournament and also earned Regional and Mid-State Player of the Year honors in those two seasons. She was a member of the all-state team the past three

years and was most valuable player in the region as a sophomore.

The six-foot Carter also competed in basketball, soccer and softball for her high school. Additionally, she is president of the National Honor Society.

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE!

'BAMA PUTTER, 6-BALL PACK, & 4-BALL PACK.

ITEMS	QTY	COST	SUBTOTAL	\$5.00 S & H PER ITEM	AL RESIDENTS ADD 4% SALES TAX	TOTAL
A. 'Bama Putter		\$64 ⁹⁵				
B. 'Bama 6-Ball Pack		\$29 ⁹⁵				
C. 'Bama 4-Ball Pack		\$19 ⁹⁵				

SEND TO: NAME _____ Ph # _____

STREET ADDRESS (Not P.O. Box) _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

☐ VISA ☐ MC # _____ EXP. _____

(ALLOW 4 - 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY)

MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

Bama Magazine

P.O. BOX 866104

Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

PHONE ORDER: **1-800-713-2261** FAX ORDER: **1-205-345-1260**

BAMA SCORECARD

The Class Of '74

Mike Dubose wasn't the only member of the Alabama football teams of 1972-74 to be named a head coach the second week of December. A day after Dubose was named head coach at Alabama, Mike Riley, a defensive back teammate of Dubose at Bama, was selected to be head coach at Oregon State.

Although Riley saw very little playing time at Alabama, he came from an extraordinary athletics background, son of former Oregon State Assistant Head Coach Bud Riley, nephew of former Crimson Tide Head Basketball and Baseball Coach Hayden Riley, and cousin of former Bama star running back Major Ogilvie. Riley had been a prep star in Corvallis, Oregon, (site of Oregon State), quarterbacking his team to the state championship in 1970. Following graduation from Alabama he had coached at Linfield College in Oregon, then moved into the Canadian Football League. He was head coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, winning the Grey Cup in 1988 and 1990. He was also head coach of the San Antonio Riders of the World Football League in 1991-92. For the past four years he has been offensive coordinator at Southern Cal.

Pension For Stallings

The Associated Press reported that outgoing Alabama Football Coach Gene Stallings could qualify for a state pension of about \$66,000 annually when he goes off The University's payroll in two years. That will be about one-ninth of his salary.

The report said that Stallings pays into the Alabama Retirement System as if he would earn \$157,000. However, a coach's compensation includes various bonuses and other income, including the use of his name. The report said Stallings' received total compensation of \$556,310 from The University last year.

Mickey Gump

The Academy Award-winning (and fictional) movie, "Forrest Gump," featured Tom Hanks in the title role as, among other things, a football player for Alabama in the early 1960s. In the movie he wears number 44 while playing for Bama. The actual player who wore number 44 in the time period when Forrest Gump is depicted as playing was Mickey Andrews. Andrews was a very good player for Alabama, but has gained even more fame as defensive coordinator for Florida State.

This year Andrews, an Ozark native who played at Bama in 1963-64, was selected as winner of the Broyles Award, honoring college football's top assistant coach. The FSU defense this year led the nation in rushing defense and was third in total defense, fourth in scoring defense.

Basketball Rankings

The Alabama women's basketball team of Coach Rick Moody got off to a rough start, losing to number one ranked Stanford at

Stanford and then falling to North Carolina State in the finals of the San Juan Shootout in Puerto Rico. Meanwhile the Alabama men's team of Coach David Hobbs got off to its best start since 1983, winning its first seven games, including a 70-67 victory over 16th ranked Minnesota.

The result:

The Alabama women were ranked eighth in the nation, while the Bama men were celebrating breaking into the nation's top 25, at 24th, for the first time in over a year. Pre-season rankings will continue to play a big role in current ratings until a few more games have been played. The Tide women were ranked second in pre-season, while the Alabama men were not ranked.

Three-Pointers

When Eric Washington hit all six of his three-point attempts in a 93-50 win over Northeastern Illinois, it helped earn Washington earn SEC Player of the Week in the first week of that honor being given this season. Washington, who broke the school record for three-point shots attempted (279) and the school and SEC marks for three-pointers made (113) last year, is closing in on James Robinson's Bama career records of three-pointers made and attempted.

Alabama set a new team record in both categories last year. This year Bama set a new team record for attempts in a game, firing up 31 in an 81-65 victory over Florida International in Miami. And Bama made 15 of those shots, one shy of the school record.

Can UAB Be Far Behind?

Alabama's basketball team will open the 1997-98 season against Alabama State, a departure from Crimson Tide practice of playing its non-conference games against out-of-state schools. The only in-state school Bama has played on a regular basis is fellow Southeastern Conference member Auburn. Alabama's last regular season game against an in-state school other than Auburn was against Samford in 1969. The Tide has played South Alabama and Alabama-Birmingham in NCAA and NIT tournaments.

Tide officials indicate the scheduling of Alabama State could lead to games against other in-state teams.

Alumni Doing Well

There's a group of Alabama alumni doing very well, and most of them haven't been out of school long. The nine alumni had various majors in their college days, but in their spare time they were basketball players, and that's how they are earning their wages these days.

According to published reports, here are the 1996-97 salaries of former Tide basketball players now in the National Basketball Association:

Guard Latrell Sprewell of Golden State \$7 million; Derrick McKey of Indianapolis \$3 million; Antonio McDyess of Denver

\$2,545,000; Robert Horry of Phoenix \$1,703,000; guard James Robinson of Minnesota \$1,235,000; forward Jason Caffey of Chicago \$700,000; center Roy Rogers of Vancouver \$664,000; forward Keith Askins of Miami \$650,000; and forward David Benoit of New Jersey \$508,000.

That averages out to a yearly salary of \$2,000,555.50.

Alumni Doings In Tampa

The University of Alabama National Alumni Association will sponsor two events for alumni and friends of The University in Tampa for this year's Outback Bowl.

Monday, December 30, University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen and Mrs. Sorensen will sponsor a reception 5-7 p.m. in the Pastabilities Restaurant on the first floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Two Tampa Center. New Athletics Director Bob Bockrath and Mrs. Bockrath will be special guests.

Tuesday, December 31, the Outback Bowl Parade will begin at 6 p.m. on Seventh Avenue in the Ybor City section of Tampa, followed at 7 p.m. by Bama's pep rally with the cheerleaders and band and a fireworks display.

Dress is casual for both events.

Frightening Finish

The Alabama men's cross country team finished a surprisingly good 13th in the NCAA Championships at Tucson, Arizona, but the story was about the courageous and frightening finish by Tide star Faizal Emamaullee.

Emamaullee, an All-America in 1995, finished this year's 10-kilometer race in 32:52 and in 95th place despite collapsing five times in the last kilometer of the race. "He began having problems early in the race and they became more severe in the last kilometer," said Tide Coach David Troy. "It was a sheer act of will that he finished the race at all. It was truly inspirational."

Emamaullee collapsed again as he crossed the finish line and then lost consciousness for 30 minutes. He was hospitalized suffering from heat exhaustion, dehydration, and altitude sickness, and there was a concern about an irregularity in his heart beat. However, he has been medically cleared.

Although Emamaullee has now completed his cross country eligibility, he has two years of indoor and outdoor track and field eligibility remaining. Troy said he would probably sit out the first couple of indoor meets before beginning competition in late January.

In addition to Emamaullee, Bama's 13th place finish was the result of runs by sophomore Tim Broe in 24th place (earning All-America), Brian Hesson 54th, Dean Fulmer 131st, Jody Spangler 139th, Wade Beroset 147th and John Williamson 161st.

Bama, which finished second in the SEC Championships, was ranked 18th going into the NCAA Championships.

Golf Rankings

The Alabama women's golf team of Coach Betty Palmer finished fall play ranked 18th in the nation, while junior star Kathryn Cusick was ranked 21st in individual play.

On the men's side, the team of Coach Dick Spybey was ranked 25th at the end of fall play with two Bama players earning rankings. Freshman Lee Davis is ranked 48th, while senior Patrick Vadden is 53rd.

Soccer Honors

Coach Don Staley's Alabama soccer team won't have its annual honors banquet until January, but several players have already received honors. Senior goalkeeper Amy Pseja was first team All-SEC, while junior striker Ashley Kirkland was second team All-SEC and named to the SEC All-Tournament Team. She was Bama's leading scorer with eight goals and seven assists for 23 points. Junior defender Nellie Barnes was named third team all-central region.

The Tide squad also placed 10 players on the SEC Academic Honor Roll. In addition to senior Pseja, Bama players selected were juniors Cari Higgins, Jill Davis, Jennifer Carle, Angela Young, Amy Lerche and Nicole Lees and sophomores Leah Formby, Christine Miller and Nellie O'Connor.

Hot Tickets

In recent years, two of the top sports attractions on The University of Alabama campus have been gymnastics and baseball.

Season ticket orders are now being accepted for both.

Gymnastics season tickets are \$25 each, but only \$20 each in groups of four.

Baseball season tickets are \$60 for grandstand/bleacher seats and \$90 for chairback seats, and in groups of four the price is \$150 for grandstand/bleacher and \$180 for chairback.

Include a \$3 per order (not ticket) handling charge.

To order, send check payable to University of Alabama to Athletic Ticket Office, P.O. Box 870394, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 and tell the sport you are ordering and include your complete name, address, and home and work telephone numbers.

The Bryant Stamp

Birmingham businessman Bob Cloud saw his dream move a giant step closer to reality when the design for a postage stamp honoring former Alabama Football Coach Paul Bryant was unveiled prior to the kickoff of the Alabama-Auburn football game.

Cloud led the grass roots support for the project, gathering thousands of names on petitions. United States Senator Richard Shelby of Tuscaloosa, who is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees the United States Postal Service, was instrumental in having the project completed.

Shelby, Postmaster General Marvin Runyon, members of the Bryant family and artist Daniel Moore took part in the announcement.

The stamp will be one of a series of four in

the Postal Service's "Legendary Football Coaches" which will be available next year.

Moore, an Alabama graduate who has earned fame for his paintings of famous moments in sports, and particularly in Alabama football history, was commissioned by the Postal Service to do the original painting for the Bryant stamp and for stamps honoring Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi, Chicago Bears Coach George Halas, and college coaching legend Pop Warner.

Although the stamps are designed to be sold in sheets with an equal number of all four stamps on each sheet, the Postal Service said there was a chance that a limited number of sheets of just the Bryant stamps would be available in Alabama.

Just One Homecoming

Alabama football fans see one homecoming game a year: Alabama's. It is extremely rare for a football team to choose a homecoming opponent like Alabama because it isn't necessary to sell tickets and because the visitor is liable to spoil homecoming by winning the game.

This year Ole Miss hosted LSU for homecoming, a decision many Mississippi faithful questioned, even before LSU ruined the day with a 39-7 victory. Moreover, the Rebels had tentatively scheduled homecoming for 1997 on October 25, the Alabama game. But Bama fans aren't going to get to see Miss Ole Miss, or whatever they call her, crowned. Mississippi now plans to make either Vanderbilt or Arkansas its homecoming game.

Royalty Leaders

The Outback Bowl football game between Alabama and Michigan will not only match two of the nation's all-time most successful teams on the field, it will pit two of the best at merchandising.

Collegiate Licensing Company, which was begun by former Alabama football player Bill Batule, handles the merchandising of official products for most of the nation's major colleges. (An exception is the leader in merchandising, Notre Dame).

Of the schools represented by Collegiate Licensing, Michigan ranked first in sales in 1995-96, while Alabama was seventh. Although figures are not released, it is believed Alabama received about \$2 million from sales of officially licensed products last year.

Following Michigan were Nebraska, North Carolina, Kentucky, Penn State, Florida State, Alabama, Florida, Tennessee and Georgetown.

Hall Of Famer

Former Alabama swimmer Carlos Berrocal has been inducted into the Puerto Rico Hall of Fame. He was a fourth place finisher in the 1976 Olympics, swimming the 100-meter backstroke.

Ironman

Former Alabama swimmer Mike Davidson finished 37th overall and second in his 30-34 age group at the Ironman Championships in Kona, Hawaii, with a time of 9:05.

Future Alabama Football Schedules

(Subject to change. Sites of home games will be announced)

1997

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30	Houston
Sept. 13	@ Vanderbilt
Sept. 20	Arkansas
Sept. 27	Southern Miss
Oct. 4	@ Kentucky
Oct. 18	Tennessee
Oct. 25	@ Ole Miss
Nov. 1	Louisiana Tech
Nov. 8	LSU
Nov. 15	Mississippi State
Nov. 22	@ Auburn
Dec. 6	SEC Championship Game, @ Atlanta

1998

Date	Opponent
Sept. 5	Brigham Young
Sept. 12	Vanderbilt
Sept. 19	@ Arkansas
Sept. 26	East Carolina
Oct. 3	Florida
Oct. 17	Ole Miss
Oct. 24	@ Tennessee
Oct. 31	Southern Miss
Nov. 7	@ LSU
Nov. 14	@ Mississippi State
Nov. 21	Auburn

1999

Date	Opponent
Sept. 4	@ Vanderbilt
Sept. 11	Houston
Sept. 18	Louisiana Tech
Sept. 25	Arkansas
Oct. 2	@ Florida
Oct. 16	@ Ole Miss
Oct. 23	Tennessee
Oct. 30	Southern Miss
Nov. 6	LSU
Nov. 13	Mississippi State
Nov. 20	@ Auburn

1996-97 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
99	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	86
79	BC Sibenik Croatia (Exh.)	70
Top of the World Classic @ Fairbanks, Alaska		
58	UNC-Wilmington	51
79	Southern Illinois	38
77	Middle Tennessee State	74
93	Northeastern Illinois	50
95	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	44
70	Minnesota	67
80	@ Florida International	65
100	Western Carolina	48
Dec. 18	North Texas	7:00
Dec. 21	Virginia Commonwealth @ Birmingham	1:50*
Dec. 27-	Cable Car Classic	
Dec. 28	@ San Jose, Calif.	
Dec. 27	San Jose State	10:00
Dec. 28	Santa Clara or Detroit Mercy	
Jan. 4	@ Vanderbilt	7:30
Jan. 8	@ Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 11	Syracuse (CBS)	2:00
Jan. 15	Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 18	@ Florida	6:00
Jan. 22	South Carolina (JP)	7:00
Jan. 25	LSU	7:00
Jan. 28	@ Auburn (ESPN)	8:30
Feb. 1	@ Mississippi State (JP)	12:00
Feb. 5	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 8	@ Tennessee (JP)	3:00
Feb. 12	Ole Miss	7:00
Feb. 15	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 19	Kentucky (JP)	7:00
Feb. 22	Auburn (SS)	4:00
Feb. 26	@ Arkansas (JP)	7:00
March 1	Mississippi State	7:00
March 6-	SEC Tournament	
March 9	@ Memphis	

*Alabama-VCU will tipoff 30 minutes after completion of Auburn-Murray State game, which begins at 11:30 a.m.

Times are central

JP-Jefferson Pilot SS-SportsSouth

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Gainesville, Fla.
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships
March 1	@ Atlanta
March 7-8	NCAA Championships @ Indianapolis, Ind.

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
116	Uralmash (Exh.)	45
Hall of Fame Classic @ Stanford, Calif.		
65	Stanford (ESPN)	74
71	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	53
San Juan Shootout, San Juan, Puerto Rico		
102	Arizona State	74
88	Puerto Rico-Mayaguez	32
81	North Carolina State	91
Sheraton Capstone Inn Classic		
62	Jackson State	37
85	Lynn	44
Holiday Beach Classic @ Conray, S.C.		
Dec. 18	Akron	5:00
Dec. 19	Penn State or Furman	8:00
Dec. 20	Finals	
Miami Holiday Classic @ Coral Gables		
Dec. 27	Grambling State	5:00
Dec. 29	Miami or Butler	
Jan. 2	Oral Roberts	2:00
Jan. 5	Ole Miss	2:00
Jan. 7	@ Auburn	7:00
Jan. 10	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Jan. 15	@ Georgia (Prime TV)	6:00
Jan. 17	@ Oral Roberts	7:00
Jan. 22	Kentucky @ Cincinnati	4:30
Jan. 26	Tennessee (Prime TV)	2:00
Jan. 27	Jackson State	7:00
Feb. 1	@ LSU	1:00
Feb. 6	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 9	South Carolina (SS)	4:00
Feb. 11	Auburn	4:00
Feb. 16	@ Florida (Sunshine TV)	4:00
Feb. 18	@ UNC-Charlotte	6:00
Feb. 23	Vanderbilt (ESPN2)	4:00
Feb. 28-	SEC Tournament	
March 3	@ Chattanooga	

Times are central

SS-SportsSouth

Men's Swimming & Diving

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA		Opp.
75	@ Northeast Louisiana	34
87	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	22
129	Florida	114
105.5	@ LSU	137.5
Illinois Invitational		
112	Ball State	72
92	Southern Illinois	56
106	Missouri	60
93.5	Iowa	56.5
103	Northwestern	37
Dec. 5-10	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 5	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 25	@ North Carolina State	11:00
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Feb. 7	Auburn	6:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
Mar. 13-15	NCAA Zone Diving @ Auburn	
March 27-	NCAA Championships	
March 29	@ Minneapolis, Minn.	

Times are central

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time
Jan. 4	Meet The Team (Exh.)	7:00
Jan. 11	@ Penn State	6:00
Jan. 18	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	6:00
Feb. 1	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 7	Kentucky	7:00
Feb. 14	@ North Carolina State, New Hampshire, Kent	6:00
Feb. 28	@ Georgia	7:00
March 8	Michigan State, West Virginia, SE Missouri State	7:00
March 15	@ Auburn, Towson State	7:30
March 22	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	
April 5	NCAA Regionals @ Ann Arbor, Mich.	
April 17-	NCAA Championships	
April 19	@ Gainesville, Fla.	

Times are central

Women's Swimming & Diving

Date/	Opponent	Time/
UA		Opp.
84	@ Northeast Louisiana	23
82	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	27
113	Florida	130
107	@ LSU	135
Illinois Invitational		
121	Illinois State	44
99	Southern Illinois	49
109	Missouri	59
60	Northwestern	53
52	Illinois	61
Dec. 5-10	US Open @ San Antonio	
Jan. 5	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 25	@ North Carolina State	11:00
Jan. 26	@ South Carolina	11:00
Jan. 26	Arkansas @ South Carolina	
Feb. 8	Auburn	11:00
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	
March 7	Tennessee	4:00
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
March 13-	NCAA Zone Diving	
March 15	@ Auburn	
March 20-	NCAA Championships	
March 22	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Times are central

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational @ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational @ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic @ Lexington
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships @ Gainesville, Fla.
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships
March 1	@ Atlanta
March 7-8	NCAA Championships @ Indianapolis, Ind.

NEW
RELEASES!

A SPECIAL WAY TO BENEFIT AND SUPPORT THE PAUL W. BRYANT MUSEUM

THE NEW 1996 COLLECTION OF BAMA'S GREATEST GAMES!

BAMA'S GREATEST GAMES 1995 COLLECTION will include five one hour tapes recreated and developed by The Alabama Sports Network (**TASN**) from special archival footage. Packaged and sold individually in attractive souvenir covers, these tapes have never before been sold at retail and include several games that were not seen on television – all games that Bama fans want to see.

BAMA'S GREATEST GAMES are hosted by famed Tide sportscaster-author John Forney and Tom Roberts of **TASN**. The **1996 COLLECTION** includes memories that will last forever in the hearts of Tide fans – memories such as Bama's 1992 win over Miami in the Sugar Bowl to close out a perfect season and clinch Bama's 12th National Championship.

The games were selected on the basis of research by the Paul W. Bryant Museum with input from Alabama fans around the world. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of these tapes will go to the museum to improve and enhance its vast collection of Alabama football memorabilia.

Available September 1, at fine retail stores everywhere, the great **1996 COLLECTION** includes these games:



Vol. 16 1992 BAMA VS. MIAMI
The Tide knocks off No. 1 Miami to win the National Championship.

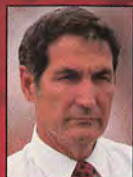
Vol. 17 1986 BAMA VS. NOTRE DAME
Linebacker Cornelius Bennett and the Tide sack the Irish.

Vol. 18 1994 BAMA VS. GEORGIA
Jay Barker leads the Tide victory in a shootout with the Bulldogs.

Vol. 19 1989 BAMA VS. OLE MISS
Gary Hollingsworth leads Bama's comeback in a 62-27 win over the Rebels.

Vol. 20 1977 BAMA VS. U.S.C.
Bear Bryant's Tide upsets the number 1 Trojans in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

"BAMA'S GREATEST GAMES are an excellent way to support the Paul W. Bryant Museum and add to your Alabama football video library. Ask for these great tapes at your favorite store. I highly recommend them."



Gene Stallings
Coach Gene Stallings



HIBBETT

SPORTS

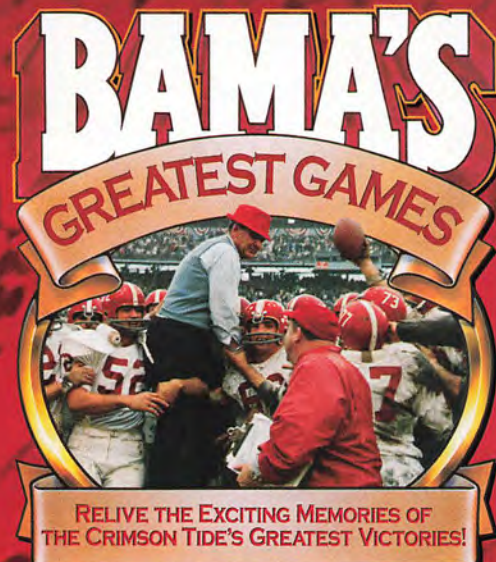
"For The Real Sport"

WAL★MART

ALWAYS LOW PRICES. ALWAYS WAL-MART.
AVAILABLE AT ALL PARTICIPATING STORES.

Always

TASN THE ALABAMA
SPORTS
NETWORKSM



Limited quantities from the 1994 Collection, Volumes 1 through 15, are available. To order, call toll free 1-800-353-BAMA.



PAUL W. BRYANT
MUSEUM

NUMBER ONE

WAY TO
FOLLOW
THE
CRIMSON
TIDE.



Bama Magazine has been giving Alabama fans the inside story on all aspects of Crimson Tide Football since 1979. Our readers get the facts and figures, but also get the story behind

the story. We profile the stars and the stars-to-be, coaches, and even the stars of yesteryear as we remember Alabama tradition. And for the best and most accurate recruiting information, nothing compares. A subscription brings you 10 full-color magazines and 14 newsletters mailed first class. We don't stop with football season, either. Keep up with all Alabama sports, August through May. Great gift idea, too!



1-800-713-2261



**PLEASE SEND ME ONE YEAR
(24 ISSUES) OF 'BAMA FOR
ONLY \$35.00**

Total amount enclosed \$_____ for _____ subscriptions. Alabama residents add \$2.00 sales tax each order. Overseas add \$10.00 each order.

Make checks payable to: 'Bama Magazine
P.O. Box 6104
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

Payment Enclosed _____ Mastercard _____ Visa _____

Bank Card# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

PLEASE PRINT

TO: (Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Daytime Phone Number _____ New Subscription _____ Renewal _____

If This Is A Gift,

Gift From: (name) _____

(Address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____